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The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo unveils first performers

Abrief

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history of the Viking Age

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The Banner Says...

The Woman with the Torch

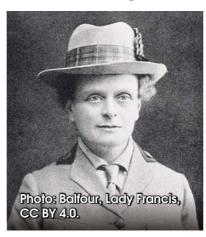


by Sean Cairney

he city of Edinburgh has recently approved a new statue for the city's iconic Royal Mile. This statue is surprisingly unique as it is the very first depicting a woman.

That woman is Dr Elsie Inglis who was a pioneering Scottish doctor, suffragist, and humanitarian who transformed women's healthcare and wartime medicine.

Committed suffragist



Born in 1864 in British India, Inglis trained at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and qualified in 1892. She was appalled by the poor standards of care for women and became a tireless advocate for improved maternity services. In 1901, founded a women-staffed maternity hospital in Edinburgh, a radical move that challenged the male-dominated medical establishment. Dr Inglis had female staff from not just across Scotland working at her sites, but women from as far as Australia, Canada and New Zealand taking up the cause.

A committed suffragist, Inglis was active in the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies. When World War I broke out, she offered her services to the British War Office—only to be told, "Go home and sit still." Undeterred, she launched the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, establishing medical units staffed entirely by women. These hospitals operated in France, Serbia, and Russia, treating thousands of soldiers and civilians under extreme conditions.

Inspiring life

Her work in Serbia was especially heroic. Despite illness, she continued to lead medical efforts and was

awarded the Serbian Order of the White Eagle and was the first woman to receive the country's highest honour. She returned to Britain gravely ill with cancer and died on November 26, 1917, just one day after arriving home.

Dr Inglis's legacy lives on as a symbol of compassion, courage, and defiance. Her contributions not only advanced medical care for women but also proved that female professionals could excel in the most demanding circumstances. Inglis is buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh, and is today remembered as "The Woman with the Torch" and her inspiring life which helped so many.

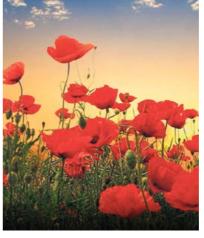
In this issue

A cast of over 1,000 is preparing to dazzle Australian and New Zealand audiences as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo gets ready to head overseas in celebration of their incredible 75th anniversary. We include just some of the world class performers in this issue, and for those who cannot make the trip Edinburgh is calling for the 2026 shows also well into development.

Viking invasions and Norse legacy are part of the Scottish story. In this issue we delve into how these fierce raiders went on to build communities and trade and became part of Scotland's history.

St Andrews is a historic coastal town in Fife, famed as the "Home of Golf" and for its prestigious university (which is Scotland's oldest). If like me, you may have enjoyed the seaside charm and history the town boasts and if not, you should plan to when visiting Scotland. Some may be surprised St Andrews is not a city but a town, which is full of history, beauty and a place named after Scotland's patron saint.

Lest We Forget



The following poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres.

The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare during the First World War. Tuesday November 11th marks the 107th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, millions around the world pause in silence to remember the sacrifices many have made so we can enjoy life today. Remember those who gave their lives in the two world wars and all who have died in combat since. Regardless of where you find yourself this month, I hope you have time to pause and remember all the men and women who gave their all, for all of us. Lest we forget.

This month is also St Andrew's Day, celebrated on November 30th, which is Scotland's official national day honouring its patron saint, Saint Andrew the Apostle. Perhaps our events page will have an event you can attend, if you find yourself celebrating, I wish you a wonderful time.

Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition?
Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner.

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Members of Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band who will perform at The Royal Edinburgh

Military Tattoo in Brisbane and Auckland. Photo: Luke Marsden.

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SCOT POURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

The historically important Cambuskenneth Abbey



King David I founded Cambuskenneth Abbey in about 1140, to serve the royal castle of Stirling. Most of the abbey was built in the 1200s, and much of the surviving structure dates back from then. It was in Cambuskenneth that the nobility and clergy of Scotland swore fealty to David Bruce as the heir of King Robert in 1326 at the first parliament to include representatives of the burghs. It was also at Cambuskenneth Abbey in 1488 that James IIII was buried after the Battle of Sauchieburn. Of its many famous abbots, the most notable was Patrick Pantar, who became both Abbot and Secretary to James V.

In 1488 the Battle of Sauchieburn took place 3 miles south of Cambuskenneth, between the armies of James III and his son, the future James IV. James III's forces seem to have been overwhelmed, and he was killed sometime during the rout. He was buried in front of the high altar at Cambuskenneth Abbey, next to his queen, Margaret of Denmark, who had died two years earlier.

Jamie Taylor Scotland

Not the Highland Games



Highland Games have long been a significant reminder of Scottish culture at home and abroad. Sadly, South Australia held its last Games several years ago, in Mount Barker in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. There have a few Highland Gathering, attracting perhaps 100 people, but the last of these (Glenbarr at Strathalbyn), held at a small rural holding, has closed its gates as well.

The main reasons have been that there are not enough volunteers to run the events, and they have become too expensive. All of this has been in a State where Scots have been a major force in its development. Even today, at the last Census, it was shown that South Australia had the second highest pro-rata figure of Scots born, just behind Western Australia, and nearly twice that of the next two States.

Since the devolution of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, the home country has been focusing on Heritage, History and Culture being significant factors in realising the social and economic well-being of Scotland. This acknowledged the important role of Scotland's massive diaspora.

Following two international migration symposia held in Adelaide it was decided that a research program should be initiated to look at the nature of Scottishness within SA.

This reported to Scotland in 2022, following which it was suggested that the research be extended looking at if and why there might be particular problems there which sets the State apart from other regions.

Not only does this include the problem of the Highland Games, but why the Scottish bit, in the minds of many people seems to be downplayed. The research has shown that there are some significant gaps which will be highlighted in a second report and a likely publication.

Ron Layton Crafers, South Australia

A cinematic tribute to Loch Lomond—Honoring Scotland's legacy from California



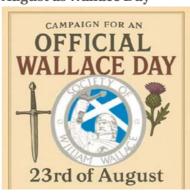
I'm reaching out to share a cinematic tribute I've created for *Loch Lomond*—a visual journey that honors Scotland's legacy through storytelling, drone footage, and emotional framing. As a singer/songwriter and filmmaker based in California, I've long felt a deep connection to Scottish culture. This project blends visual metaphor and pacing to reflect the spirit of Loch Lomond—not just as a song, but as a symbol of loyalty, loss, and homeland. I would be honored if you'd consider featuring the video or sharing it with your readers. It's crafted to resonate

with Scots around the world and those who hold Scotland close to their hearts. You can view my video at: https://youtu.be/xYDMIvt-p58

Thank you for your time and for celebrating the global Scottish community.

Tony Liggens Singer/Songwriter & Cinematic Storyteller Eastvale, California USA

Recognition of the 23rd of August as Wallace Day



We, the Society of William Wallace call upon the Scottish Government to officially recognise the 23rd of August as Wallace Day, National Day of Remembrance and celebration in honour of Sir William Wallace, one of Scotland's most iconic figures in the struggle for freedom.

Sir William Wallace was executed on the 23rd of August 1305 for leading the fight for Scotland's independence. His courage, sacrifice, and unyielding commitment to

Scottish sovereignty have echoed through centuries and remain an enduring symbol of national pride and resilience. While monuments, books, and films have kept his memory alive, there is no formal day set aside to honour the man who became a cornerstone of Scotland's national identity.

Why Wallace Day matters:

- It offers a moment of reflection on Scotland's long and hard-fought journey.
- It encourages historical education and civic pride, particularly among young Scots.
- It provides a focal point for cultural events, heritage tourism, and local community gatherings.
- It unites Scots across political and cultural lines around shared values of courage, resistance to oppression, and national dignity.

By officially recognising Wallace Day, Scotland would take a meaningful step toward preserving and celebrating its rich heritage—ensuring future generations understand and honour the sacrifices that shaped the nation we know today.

Let us mark August 23rd not just as a date of martyrdom, but as a National Day of Remembrance, unity, and inspiration.

Please sign the petition: www.change. org/p/wallace-day

David Reid Society of William Wallace Email: societyofjohndegraeme@yahoo.com

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA 1000

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Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Glamis Castle



Glamis Castle-What a driveway! The Kilted Photographer

Barradise



The beauty of Barra...

Derek A Grist

The National Wallace Monument



Birds eye view of the National Wallace Monument, Stirling. Craig Duncan Photography

The Doulton Fountain



The Doulton Fountain-A Victorian masterpiece in the heart of Glasgow! *Soul of Alba Photography*

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbsanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!

The Learned Kindred of Currie presents the 2025 Inspire Award to Pipe Major Stuart Currie



he Learned Kindred of Currie is proud to recognize excellence within our global family through the presentation of the Inspire Award.

This honor is given to members of the Kindred who embody the very best of our shared heritage - those who inspire through their service, creativity, leadership, and dedication to strengthening the Currie legacy.

The 2025 Inspire Award has been presented to Pipe Major Stuart Currie of Dumfries, Scotland. A gifted musician and composer, Stuart has shared the rich traditions of Highland piping with audiences at home and abroad. His leadership and artistry were on full display at the 2024 Pipes of Christmas concerts, where he performed his stirring original composition *The March to St. Giles*, commissioned by the Kindred to commemorate the 900th anniversary

of Edinburgh. The march enjoyed its Edinburgh premiere as part of the 2025 Riding of the Marches event to mark the closing of the Edinburgh 900 celebrations.

Traditions are living things

Through his music, Stuart Currie has inspired countless listeners while honoring Scotland's history and culture. His dedication exemplifies the spirit of the Inspire Award—uplifting others, strengthening our bonds, and showing how the Currie legacy continues to flourish in the modern world.

This is the second tune composed by Currie and commissioned by the Kindred. In 2017, he composed the rousing *Curries are Coming* which was first performed as the Kindred processed to Edinburgh Castle as an Honoured Clan for the Splash of Tartan celebrations for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

In announcing the award, Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie, remarked: "Pipe Major Stuart Currie has brought great honor to the Kindred through his music, creativity, and leadership. His work reminds us that our traditions are living things, capable of inspiring new generations. He is a most deserving recipient of the Inspire Award."

The Learned Kindred of Currie

The Learned Kindred of Currie – operating as the Clan Currie Society - is an international cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving the proud heritage of the Currie/MacMhuirich family. For centuries, the Curries were Scotland's learned kindred of poets, historians, and chroniclers, entrusted with safeguarding the history, language, and traditions of Gaelic Scotland.

Founded in 1959, the Clan Currie Society was established to celebrate and share this extraordinary legacy. Today, the Society has members across Scotland, North America, and beyond, carrying forward the Currie heritage through cultural, educational, and musical initiatives.



Scotland comes to the Hunter Valley



Since 1852, when the initial Scottish pioneers set foot on the Australian continent, the vibrant tapestry of Scottish culture has flourished Down Under. The roots of the Highland Games trace back to the 11th century, where they emerged as a platform for testing endurance and strength while showcasing the artistic flair of dance and music to esteemed clan chiefs, kings, and queens.

In Australia, the legacy of this tradition lives on, as we continue to organize this spirited event, fostering unity within the Scottish community. Beyond a mere showcase of physical prowess, the Highland Games serve as a cultural celebration, inviting individuals of all ages to engage with and embrace the Scottish way of life.

From the exhilaration of caber tossing to the savoury delight of tasting authentic Scotch pies, the Games provide a multifaceted experience, encouraging everyone to immerse themselves in the diverse and lively tapestry of Scottish culture.

Join the Hunter Valley Highland Games at Saltire Estate on November 22nd and witness a blend tradition with the contemporary, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds that connect us to our Scottish roots.

For details see: www.huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au

Help a Stirlingshire community save a piece of Scotland



community in the heart of
Stirlingshire is making an
international appeal to help them
save a "truly invaluable" 27-acre
piece of the Scottish landscape from being
lost to private development. The residents
of Kinlochard are working to purchase 'The
Field' to protect its unique natural heritage
for generations to come.

The land is a microcosm of Scotland's renowned biodiversity, providing a sanctuary for wildlife such as otters, beavers, and iconic red squirrels.

In addition, this key piece of land offers a small rural community which in the past 30 years has lost its school, shop, post office, pub, café and bus service, a chance to develop, survive and thrive.

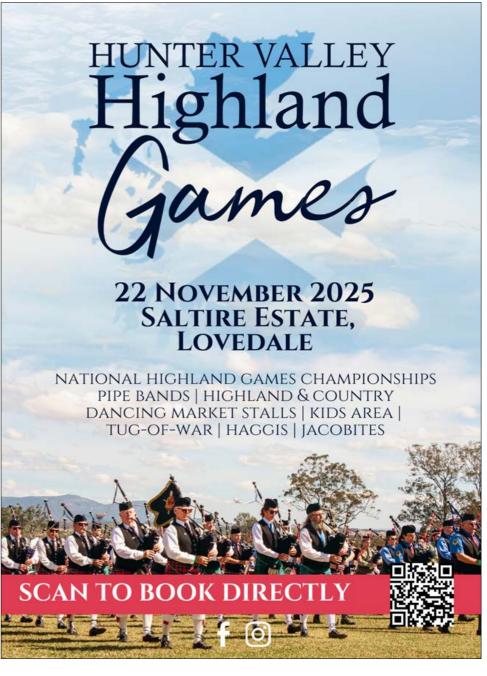
The local community has a well-developed plan to act as custodians for this "little gem," ensuring it is preserved and made accessible for all. The community is now raising the final funds required to complete the purchase. With the land

potentially being sold within months, their campaign is urgent.

The Kinlochard Community Residents Association has launched a Crowdfunder, hoping that Scots and lovers of Scotland around the world will support their bid to purchase the £225,000 property. "What happens to that 27 acres... will determine what happens to Kinlochard," says long-time resident Andy Manders.

For more information, or to help, visit the website and crowdfunder: www.thefieldkinlochard.co.uk and www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-field-kinlochard





SCOTSPEAK

Scotspeak is a selection of quotes which made headlines in Scotland last month on a variety of current Scottish affairs.



"Our aim is to transform this former military site into a dynamic and vibrant location for film, high-end TV production and other creative industries, and put Stirling at the centre of this industry in Scotland, delivering wide-ranging and lasting economic and social benefits."

Stirling Council leader Gerry McGarvey said as work began on a major project to build a film studio in Stirling. The £16 million project will transform the former Ministry of Defence site at Forthside into a film studio, creating thousands of jobs for the region. The council is hoping major networks and streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon use the studios for films and TV shows. The site will become one of Scotland's largest film production sites and is due to be ready before spring 2026.

"Frantisek's story is one of great courage and sacrifice, and his service during the Second World War reflects not only his personal bravery but also the enduring ties between our two nations. This memorial will stand as a lasting symbol of the bond between our communities and a reminder of the courage and sacrifice shown during the darkest of times."

East Ayrshire Provost Claire Leitch said as a memorial honouring a WW2 pilot who died after his aircraft crashed at Loch Doon was unveiled. It commemorates Czech Spitfire pilot, Frantisek Hekl, whose plane crashed into the loch in October 1941. Hekl had enlisted with the RAF Volunteer Reserve in November 1940 and joined the 312 (Czechoslovak) Squadron, based at RAF Ayr, next to Prestwick Airport, in 1941. On the morning of October 25, 1941, 26 year-old Hekl took off from RAF Ayr and headed towards Loch Doon, where he flew fast and low over the water. Sadly, his wingtip struck the surface, and the plane was instantly submerged. Although Hekl's plane was eventually recovered in 1982, his body was never found.

"The importance of Glasgow city centre cannot be overstated, and these figures are a very positive sign as we move from post-pandemic recovery into a new era for our city. It is especially encouraging to see consumer spending on the rise, as this is a key measure for businesses considering expansion. The recent arrival of high-profile brands underlines Glasgow's strong reputation as an international destination of choice for ambitious companies."

Stuart Patrick, Chief Executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said figures for the city centre show that retail sales were up 9.4% in August 2025 in comparison to August 2024, and Glasgow has outperformed its UK competitor cities such as Edinburgh (a 0.2% increase), Manchester (0.4% increase), Leeds (0.9% decrease) and UK overall (4.8% decrease) when comparing those months.



"The Abernethy Pearl is a rare and special specimen and I'm delighted that it's been donated to the National Collection. It's a thing of beauty, but it also highlights the impact of the biodiversity crisis. Pearl fishing was once a very important export industry but the populations of mussels in Scotland have been decimated. We simply wouldn't have 80 years of undisturbed water in Scotland today for a pearl of this size to be created. It's one of a kind."

Dr Rachel Walcott, Principal Curator of Earth Systems at National Museums Scotland said the largest freshwater pearl to be found in Scotland in centuries has been donated to the National Collection. Perfectly round the Abernethy Pearl went on permanent display in the Restless Earth gallery at the National Museum of Scotland. Named after its finder, pearl fisherman William Abernethy, it was discovered inside a mussel near the River Tay in Perthshire in 1967.

"Across Scotland we know there are areas where overtourism is a problem, causing overcrowding in tourism "hotspots" and a strain on resources. The Visitor Levy Act gives local authorities the power to levy the charges to help them cope with the demands on infrastructure which this produces. In some areas rates of between 2% and 7% are being considered. At the same time, we had to look at the specific situation in East Ayrshire and as a result of consultations with our partner organisations and the tourism

business community we recognised that while we are broadly supportive of the Visitor Levy scheme because of the opportunities it would provide to reinvest in the local tourism economy, our own circumstances mean it is not viable or appropriate to implement it at this time."

Councillor Ian Linton, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Tourism said East Ayrshire Council will not be introducing a Visitor Levy in the near future. Councillors heard the results of engagement and consideration undertaken by the Council's Economic Growth Team following the introduction of The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 which makes provision for a local levy to be applied to the sector that could bring in resources specifically to support the local tourism infrastructure. As a result of the review, they agreed to pause any further work on development of a levy until August 2027 until more evidence is available about the impact of the scheme in other areas and on the wider visitor economy.



"Scotland could have more forests, healthier seas, and lusher wildlife. Rewilding is how we can make that happen – bringing with it balance, hope, and fantastic opportunity – creating jobs, teaching new skills, and bringing people together to look after Scotland's future."

Scottish actor Alan Cumming said as he calls on Scottish politicians to commit to rewilding. *The Traitors, X-Men and Avengers* star Alan Cumming has backed a campaign calling on the Scottish government to declare Scotland the world's first Rewilding Nation and commit to rewilding 30% of the country's land and seas. Scotland is ranked one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, with polling showing that 80% of Scots think the Scottish Government should have policies in place to support rewilding.

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SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 22.

CLUES ACROSS

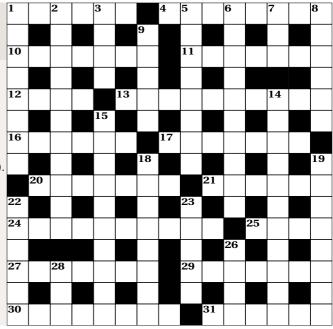
- 1) A short-billed duck (6).
- 4) She handles cows! (8)
- 10) It's a wrench in the US (7).
- 11) In Scotland they're glens (7).
- 12) Water flow (4)
- 13) Top Scots golfing hotel (10).
- 16) The kirk's second in command (6).
- 17) Town east of Bonar Bridge (7).
- 20) A starter for pipers (7).
- 21) A drop of water! (6).

- 24) District of Edinburgh (10).
- 25) Inner Hebridean island (4)
- 27) Put down in the sea (7).
- 29) Collectively named (7)
- 30) Close up for a punch up! (8).
- 31) Kirk office-bearer (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're found in steamiest (8).
- 2) Mountainous US games (11).
- 3) Possesses (4).
- 5) James Watt was one (8).

- 6) Town east of Irvine (10)
- 7) View this loch in wonder (3).
- 8) Leave off (6).
- 9) Row of plants! (5).
- 14) Waterway east of Glen Shiel (4, 7)
- 15) Fife new town (10).
- 18) Mary, Queen of Scots' fate (8).
- 19) Scottish get-togethers (8).
- 22) Made the Bruce try again (6).
- 23) Kirk congregation (5).
- 26) The true Highlander (4).
- 28) Old Scots measure (3).



Hillwalkers urged to help with historic meteorite recovery efforts



Munro are being asked for their help to bag a meteorite too, as scientists race against time to recover precious samples of a space rock which lit up the skies over Scotland this summer. In the early hours of Thursday 3rd July, a meteor exploded as it entered the atmosphere over the north of the country.

The fireball it created quickly went viral on social media, with users sharing footage of its trail captured on their mobile phones and home security cameras.

Scottish Highlands

Researchers from the UK Fireball Alliance have combined data from public videos with images taken from their own dedicated meteor tracking cameras including the Global Meteor Network, UK Meteor Network and Global Fireball Observatory to reconstruct the meteor's path and estimate where the meteorite fell. They are appealing to hillwalkers to keep their eyes peeled for fragments of the meteorite when they are out and about

across three Munros in the Scottish Highlands. If a hiker is lucky enough to find a piece, it would be the first time in more than a century that a meteorite has been successfully recovered in Scotland.

Fragments of the rock may be scattered across around 20 km of the Highlands, according to the team. Their analysis of the footage suggests that smaller fragments of up to 100 grams were dropped to the west as it travelled across Stob Coire Easain and Chno Dearg, before larger chunks up to 10 kilograms fell over Ben Alder. The team expect the majority of the meteorite's mass to have landed on Ben Alder's plateau, where exposed granite could make the dark space rock more visible to visitors. A team of 14 volunteers from the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Manchester as well as several citizen scientists recently spent several days scouring the western side of the fall line. Their efforts were cut short by bad weather before they could recover any of the meteorite fragments, so they are turning to hillwalkers to ask for help.

Jigsaw of our Solar System's history Professor Luke Daly, of the University of Glasgow's School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, was co-leader of the search party. In 2021, he led the team which recovered the largest intact fragment of the Winchcombe meteorite, the first of its kind to be retrieved on UK soil in nearly 30 years.

Professor Daly said: "Meteorites are time capsules of the early Solar System, which hold a wealth of information about how our Solar System formed and developed. This is a very exciting opportunity to learn more about where this rock came from and where it has been and fill in a bit more of the jigsaw of our Solar System's history. We know from intensive analysis of the Winchcombe samples that meteorites are very quickly affected by contact with the Earth's atmosphere. The longer these pieces sit out on the Scottish hills, the more they will be weathered and the less we'll be able to tell about their composition. The clock is very much ticking on our chances to learn as much as we can from these rocks, so any help that hillwalkers can give us could make all the difference."

The School of Geographical & Earth Science's Dr Aine O'Brien also led the search team. She said: "We're asking hillwalkers to keep an eye out for rocks which stand out from everything around them. Meteorites are black and shiny with an almost glassy appearance, and they are heavy for their size. Since it could be about 30% iron, it may also look slightly rusty after all the rain we've had recently.

If someone is lucky enough to bag a meteorite while bagging a Munro, we're asking them to take a photo and take a note of their GPS location and send it to the UK Fireball Alliance. If it's small enough to be picked up, please try not to handle it directly – wrapping it in aluminium foil or a clean sandwich bag would be very helpful. If it's too big to carry, the GPS location will help us recover it later."

The UK Fireball Alliance, or UKFAll, is a collaboration of camera networks which monitors and tracks meteorites as they enter Britain's airspace. UKFAll volunteers used footage drawn from 14 different cameras to reconstruct the meteorite's path and how it fragmented as it fell. Jamie Shepherd of the UK Meteor Network said: "I've had a life-long fascination with meteors and meteorites, and for a school project I asked the National Museum in Scotland if they would let me take pictures of the last recovered meteorite seen to fall here in 1917. They kindly took all four pieces out of the cabinet and allowed me to hold them and take pictures. The next one to be found will be history-making and it's very special to be part of the recovery team."





The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

The Scottish Seabird Centre, a marine conservation and education charity, celebrates their 25th birthday in 2025, dedicating 25 years to inspiring people to care for and protect Scotland's marine life and habitats.

To recognise this major milestone, they created their own tartan with colours inspired by the sea and two iconic Scottish seabird species, the Atlantic puffin and Northern gannet. This tartan (reference: 14812) was designed by Brian Halley and registered in May, 2025.



THE BANNER **BOOK SHOP**

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Scotland the Strange-Weird Tales from Storied Lands From misty moors comes a hoard of 18 strange tales. Sourced from Scotland's storied literary heritage and bustling with witches, ghosts, devils and merfolk, this selection celebrates the works of treasured Scottish writers such as John Buchan. Robert Louis Stevenson & Neil M. Gunn alongside rare pieces by lesser-known authors - including translated from Scots Gaelic. Brooding in the borderlands where strange folklore, bizarre mythology and 20th century hauntings meet, this volume promises chills and shivers as keen and fresh as the wind-whipped Price: \$39.95 Plus postage wilds of Scotland. Culloden

The Battle of Culloden has gone down in history as the last major battle fought on British soil: a vicious confrontation between Scottish forces supporting the Stuart claim to the throne and the English Royal Army.Culloden changed the course of British history by ending all hope of the Stuarts reclaiming the throne, cementing Hanoverian rule and forming the bedrock for the creation of the British Empire. Royle's lively and provocative history looks afresh at the period and unveils its true significance, not only as the end of a struggle for the throne but the beginning of a new global power.

Price: \$29.95 Plus postage Scottish Gaelic in 12 Weeks

Written both as a self-tuition course for beginners and also for use within the classroom. You may want to learn Gaelic because of a general interest in Celtic or Scottish history and culture, or because it was the everyday language of your ancestors. Each lesson in the book contains essential points of grammar explained and illustrated, exercises, a list of new vocabulary (with a guide to pronunciation, using the International Phonetics Alphabet), and an item of conversation This new edition includes an audio download link
Price: S34.95 Plus postage

The Pocket Gaelic-English/English-Gaelic Dictionary Latest soft cover dictionary

is ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples of usage and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Many registers and styles are sampled, from the familiar (and occasionally the vulgar) to the formal and the literary. Price: \$24.95 Plus postage

A History of Scottish Football in 100

Objects From Socrates to Arthur Montford, via Bovril, Buckfast and, of course, pies, this is a unique journey through the extraordinary world of Scottish football. Packed with anecdotes and observations, Andy Bollen wallows in a nostalgic haze, a time of hatchet-men with moustaches, a magic spounge that should have been granted miracle status and big-money strikers who couldn't hit a cow's posterior with a banjo. This idiosyncratic ride through the wonderful absurdity of Scottish football with chime with every fan.

Price: \$24.95 Plus postage

Clans and Tartans of Scotland The Scots are a remarkable race with a justifiably proud history and culture which they have successfully passed on through generations. This compact book sets out to identify the larger Scottish clan and family names, their tartans, septs (dependent family names), heraldic crests, mottos, ancestral lands and allegiances. This book features full colour photographs of each tartan as opposed to digital reproductions, allowing readers to see both the textures and patterns.

Price: \$19.95 Plus postage

My First Colouring Book: Scotland

Age range 3+. Young children will love these colouring books featuring simple illustrations of a variety of Scottish themes. Contents feature: Castles, Unicorns, Scottish Country Dancers, Bagpipes, Loch Ness Monster, Forth Rail Bridge, Tartan and more. Price: \$19.95 Plus postage

Scottish Placenames Names are very important and can unlock vast amounts of information about places and their origins. The placename of Scotland are a goldmine of information about times past and the lives of early inhabitants. The different languages of their origin – Gaelic, Pictish, Cumbric, Old Norse and Old English - reflect the many cultures that have been part of Scotland's story. Other names date back to prehistoric times and are the only link to a world now lost to us forever. This comprehensive book features more than 500 placenames and is an essential book for all interested

in Scottish history & culture. Price: \$19.95 Plus postage

A History of Scotland

Historian Neil Oliver presents a compelling new portrait of Scottish history, peppered with action, high drama and centuries of turbulence that have helped to shape modern Scotland. Along the way, he takes in iconic landmarks and historic architecture; debunks myths surrounding Scotland's famous sons; recalls forgotten battles; charts the growth of patriotism; and explores recent political developments, capturing Scotland's sense of identity and celebrating her place in the wider Price: \$29.95 Plus postage world.

Tall Tales and Wee Stories: The Best of

Billy Connolly

Tall Tales and Wee Stories brings together the very best of Billy's storytelling for the first time and includes his most famous routines including, The Last Supper, Jojoba Shampoo, Incontinence Pants and Shouting Wildebeest. With an introduction and original illustrations by Billy throughout, it is an inspirational, energetic and riotously funny read, and a fitting celebration of our greatest ever comedian.

Price: \$ 24.95 Plus postage



First published in 1929 this gives a delightful account of eating & drinking in Scotland throughout the ages, with definitive recipes for all the traditional national dishes. Cookery writer Catherine Brown describes the impact this pioneering book has had on the whole of Scottish cuisine and traces the fascinating life story of Marian McNeill herself. Notes explain how to use the book so that its treasure trove of recipes, covering the whole gamut of Scottish cuisine, can be explored in the modern kitchen. Price: \$44.95 Plus postage

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

This edition of the bestselling guide to this increasingly popular pursuit. Scotland has the best-maintained records & facilities of any country in the world for undertaking family research. This is the National Archives' official guide and is written in an accessible style from the unique perspective of a custodian of the records. It details all the latest internet developments, including a chapter on family history on the web.It also points to more traditional sources, explaining step by step how to research records of births, marriages & wills. Price: \$29.95 Plus postage

Scotland's Clans and Their Tartans

STOCK DUE NOVEMBER- A beautifully presented TREVOR ROYLE history of Scotland's clans and their tartans. This book offers an authoritative exploration of the origins and evolution of Scotland's unique clan system. From the Abercrombies to the Wemyss clan, this comprehensive book provides detailed entries on the history of each clan, including their geographical origins, notable clansmen, their mottoes and the evolution of their distinctive tartan. With over 150 tartans beautifully displayed, this guide serves as both a visual celebration and an exhaustively researched reference for anyone with an ancestral connection to Scotland alike.

Price: \$39.95 Plus postage

Scottish Queens-The Queens and Consorts Who Shaped the Nation The lives of the Scottish queens, both those who ruled in their own right, and also the consorts, have largely been neglected in conventional history books. One of the earliest known Scottish queens was none other than the notorious Lady MacBeth. Was she really the wicked woman depicted in Shakespeare's play? Was St Margaret a demure and obedient wife? Why did Margaret Logie exercise such an influence over her husband, David II. These are just a few of the questions addressed in this entertaining, impeccably researched book. Price: \$24.95 Plus postage



Scotland Few aspects of Scottish history inspire as fervent an interest as the wars with England. The exploits of not one, but two, national heroes – William Wallace and Robert Bruce – have excited the attention of historians But few have ventured to examine it in depth from an English perspective. Yet there could have been no Walla or Bruce, no Stirling Bridge or Bannockburn, without the English kings' efforts to subjugate their northern neighbour. This book explores how Edward I attempted to bring the Scottish kingdom under his control during the 13th & 14th centuries.

Price: \$34.95 Plus postage

Edinburgh's Best Buildings As a world heritage ite and one of the most visited cities in the world, Edinburgh boasts a huge range of buildings from all periods and in many different styles. This book introduces 300 of the city's most fascinating places, from imposing public buildings such as galleries, museums, banking halls, churches and theatres to pubs, domestic dwellings, monuments and industrial architecture.Conveniently grouped by location, all areas of the city are covered, including suburbs. All are accessible by walking, cycling. oublic transport or car. Price: \$29.95 Plus postage



During the 1st millennium AD the most northerly part of Britain evolved into the country known today as Scotland. The transition was a long process of social and political change driven by the ambitions of powerful warlords. At first these men were tribal chiefs, Roman generals or rulers of small kingdoms. Later, after the Romans departed. the initiative was seized by dynamic warrior-kings who campaigned far beyond their own borders. Armies of Picts, Scots, Vikings, Britons and Anglo-Saxons fought each other for supremacy. In this book the story of how ancient North Britain became the medieval kingdom of Price: \$24.95 Plus postage Scotland is told.

To See Ourselves-A Personal History of Scotland Since 1950 Since 1945 the world has changed at breakneck speed, and life in post-war Scotland is now entirely different from what it was like when Alistair Moffat grew up in the Border town of Kelso in the 50s. At that time practicalities of daily life which had remained constant for generations were about to change in the most unimaginable ways. This is a book about those changes many of which have been book about these changes, many of which have been disorientating and how they have affected all parts Scotland. Themes such as housing, healthcare, sport, media, the arts & entertainment, urban and country life, politics, religion are all viewed through the lens of Price: \$39.95 Plus postage personal experience.

Scottish Folklore

Scotland has one of the richest traditions of folklore in the world, and the nation's greatest writers have be influenced by the country's abundance of customs, superstitions, ghost stories and folktales. Robert Burns, Walter Scott, James Hogg and Robert Louis Stevenson all used Scottish folklore in their work. This book traces the roots and traditions of Scottish folklore and introduces all its key parts, combining a huge range of material from gypsy-lore and Arthurian legend to tales of magical beasts, demons and witches and lore associated with the Price: \$19.95 Plus postage natural world.

Tales for Twilight This book offers a spine tingling selection of unnerving tales by writers from James Hogg in the early 18th century to James Robertson, very much alive in the 21st. Scottish authors have proved to be exceptionally good at writing ghos stories. Perhaps it's because of the tradition of oral storytelling that has stretched over centuries, including poems and ballads with supernatural themes. The golden age was during the Victorian and Edwardian period, but the ghost story has continued to evolve and remains popular to this day. Price: \$24.95 Plus postage

To order: www.scottishbanner.com/shop Call us or use the order form found on pg 6.

The Highlands Paul Murton journeys the length and breadth of the beautiful Scottish Highlands. In addition to bringing a fresh eye to popular destinations such as Glencoe, Ben Nevis, Loch Ness and the Cairngorms, he also visits some little-known locations hidden off the beaten track. Throughout his travels he meets a host of modern Highlanders, from caber tossers and gamekeepers to lairds to pipers, and uncovers some strange tales, myths and legends along the way stories of Jacobites, clan warfare, murder and cattle rustling fill each chapter. Price: \$44.95 Plus postage The Hebrides

Paul Murton has spent half a lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world – the Hebrides He has travelled the length and breadth of the Scotland's rugged, 6,000 mile coast line, and sailed to over 80 islands. This new edition visits each of the Hebridean our islands in turn, introducing their myths and legends, history, culture & natural beauty. He also meets the people who live there and learns their story. A vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to

the less well-known aspects of life among the islands.

Price: \$34.95 Plus postage

The Folk Tales of Scotland-The Well at the

World's End and Other Stories

The classic folk tales of Scotland were passed down

from storyteller to storyteller, and from the first sentence they were designed to hold the attention of the listener or reader as though a spell had been cast over them. The Montgomeries, distinguished folklorists, gathered traditional stories from all parts of Scotland. Their collection, first published in 1956, became a classic o the storytelling tradition, with the stories retold in a simple, dramatic style, appealing to adult and child

Price: \$29.95 Plus postage The Declaration of Arbroath

The Declaration of Arbroath is Scotland's most famous document. The Declaration of Arbroath, 6 April, 1320, is one of the most remarkable documents to have been produced anywhere in medieval Europe. Signed by 51 Scottish nobles, it confirms Scotland's status as an independent sovereign state with the right to use military action if unjustly attacked. This is the first book-length study to examine the origins of the Declaration and the ideas upon which it drew, while tracing the rise of its Queens mythic status in Scotland and exploring its impact upon revolutionary America. Price: \$24.95 Plus postage

A Croft in the Hills

First published in 1960, this is now acknowledged as a classic among Highland books. It captures what it was really like trying to make a living out of a hill croft near Loch Ness 50 years ago. A couple and their daughter, fresh from city life, immerse themselves in looking after sheep, cattle and hens, mending fences, baking bread and surviving the worst that Scottish winters can throw at them. Their neighbours are few, but among them they find the generosity and community spirit that has survived in the Highlands for generations.

Price:\$19.95 Plus postage

Everyday Gaelic: With Audio Download

This new and expanded edition of the best-selling

Everyday Gaelic has been compiled by an author with many years' experience in teaching the language to adults and children. In addition to basic words and phrases, it also includes more complex and idiomatic material, all arranged thematically and covering topics such as meeting & greeting, travelling, the weather and eating & drinking. There are also clearly explained sections on grammar and imitated pronunciation for all Gaelic words and phrases. The result is an accessible and useful book which will be of benefit to all levels and ages of Gaelic Price: \$34.95 Plus postage

The Poor Had No Lawyers
Who owns Scotland? How did they get it? What happened to all the common land in Scotland? This book updates the statistics of landownership in Scotland and explores how and why landowners got their hands on the millions of acres of land that were once held in common. It tells he untold story of how Scotland's legal establishment and politicians managed to appropriate land through legal fixes. Have attempts to redistribute this power more equitably made any difference, and what are the full implications of the recent debt-fuelled housing bubble. For all those with an interest in urban and rural land in Scotland, this provides analysis of one the most important political questions in Scotland. Price: \$39.95 Plus postage

Dancing in the Streets

The classic Glasgow Memoir with a new introduction by Tom Morton. This is Clifford Hanley's vibrant, unsentimental and hilarious account of growing up in the 1920s and '30s, and his later working life as a radio broadcaster & journalist. His razor-sharp observations and anecdotes cover many topics, from family life, art and showbiz to politics and what it was like to be a conscientious objector during WW2. But even the most bittersweet stories are leavened with humour, and the irrepressible Glasgow spirit always shines through Price: \$24.95 Plus postage

Scotland: A History from Earliest Times

From the Ice Age to the recent Scottish Referendum, historian and author Alistair Moffat explores the history of the Scottish nation. As well as focusing on key moments in the nation's history such as the Battle of Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings, it features other episodes in history that are perhaps less well documented. From prehistoric timber halls to inventions and literature, this explores the drama of battle, change, loss and invention interspersed with the lives of ordinary Scottish folk, the men and women Price: \$34.95 Plus postage who defined a nation.

Edinburgh: A New History
From prehistory to the present day, the story of Edinburgh is packed with drama. As Scotland's capital since 1437, the city has witnessed many of the key events which have shaped the nation. But Edinburgh has always been much more than just a political centre. During the Enlightenment, it was one the intellectual powerhouses of Europe, and in the 20th century it became the arts capital of the world. This book shows how the city changed over the centuries, introduces Edinburgh's famous places and people, as well as the ordinary citizens who have contributed so much to the life of one of the world's most incredible cites.

Price: \$34.95 Plus postage Please note: All titles in stock at time of press. Books

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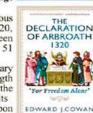
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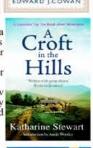
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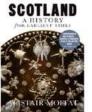










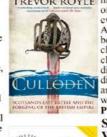


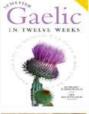


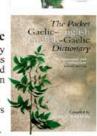
















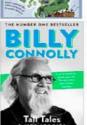


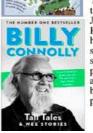
















Historic document goes on display

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document ratifying the peace treaty which ended the first Scottish War of Independence has gone on display in Northampton.

The 1328 Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton and the ratification is held by National Records of Scotland (NRS).

The ratification is on show at Northampton Museum as part of its exhibition: The History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects.

The English parliament was sitting in Northampton when it agreed the terms of the treaty. The 'final and perpetual' Treaty saw Scotland recognised as an independent kingdom, and Robert the Bruce as rightful King of Scots. In return, the Scots agreed to pay compensation in war damages.

One of the treasures in the Scottish national archive

Dr Alan Borthwick, Head of Medieval and Early Modern Records at NRS, said: "As was quite common for the period, the deal included the marriage of children from both royal houses. Robert the Bruce's four-year-old son David, soon to be King David II, married King Edward III's seven year old sister Joan. While the treaty ended more than 30 years of conflict, the peace was fragile and fighting broke out again in 1332. This document is one of the treasures in the Scottish national archive and relates to a key time in our history."

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery is hosting *A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects* until 8 February 2026. This major exhibition includes items from prehistoric times right up to the present day. Once the exhibition closes, the record will go back to NRS. While the treaty's 700th anniversary is in three years' time, one of its pledges was only fulfilled 29 years ago. In 1996 the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish monarchs, was returned to Scotland from Westminster Abbey.

The Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton (NRS catalogue reference SP6/2) is one of many historical treasures preserved in Scotland's national archives which extend to almost 80 km of shelved records. The First Scottish War of Independence ran from 1296 until 1328. The second lasted from 1332 until 1357.



ow well do you know Scotland?
To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good Luck!

- 1) What percentage of Scotland's islands are inhabited? a) 11%, b) 21% or c) 31%?
- 2) The Duke of Atholl is clan chief of which clan?
- 3) What, apart from whisky, is the key ingredient in a Whisky Mac?
- 4) King Robert the Bruce died of leprosy true or false?
- 5) Where was Rob Roy born?
- 6) Which place is known as the Honest Toon?

- 7) What is so peculiar about the sand at Gruinard Bay?
- 8) What is a clarsach?
- 9) How high is Ben Nevis? a) 4206 feet, b) 4306 feet or c) 4406 feet?10) Which river runs through Dumfries?

Answers to Ken your country:

- 1) a) 11%.
- 2) The Murray's.
- 3) Green ginger.
- 4) True.
- 5) Glengyle, at the head of Loch latrine.
- 6) Musselburgh, a historic market town in East Lothian.
- 7) It's pink!
- 8) It's a small Celtic harp.
- 9) c) 4406 feet.
- 10) The River Nith.

World Porridge Making Championship 2025



care technology consultant from Norway has been crowned 2025 World Porridge Making Champion, following the competition held in Carrbridge in the Scottish Highlands. Sven Seljom from Mandal in Norway, made his porridge from Norwegian Black Oats, an ancient grain which used to be grown all over Europe, but disappeared in the 1800s, together with Norwegian sea salt, and water which he brought with him from home.

First time entrant, Sven, said: "It's a great honour. I'm lost for words. It has been such great fun to be here – the welcome in the village, the hall

arrangements, it's just been tremendous. I heard about the World Porridge Making Championship many years ago on Norwegian radio and thought it sounded really different, and I've wanted to enter ever since. I started experimenting with different types of steel cut oats. I really love the texture. The oats I used came from an organic farm, and I soaked them for 24 hours before the competition."

Contestants prepare traditional porridge using only three ingredients – water, oatmeal and salt.

The very best in traditional porridge-making

Now in its 32nd year, the Championship celebrates the very best in traditional porridge-making, attracting contestants from around the world. Contestants prepare traditional porridge using only three ingredients – water, oatmeal and salt. This year, 30 competitors representing 14 countries including the USA, Canada, Norway, Australia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Finland took part.

Judges included Neil Mugg, former pastry chef at The Gleneagles Hotel, who now mentors the next generation of chefs at the University of the Highlands and Islands; award-winning chef, artisan baker, and author, KJ Gilmour; and Scotland's best-selling cookery book writer,

Coinneach Macleod, aka The Hebridean Baker. The judges scored each entry on taste, texture and colour.

Highly coveted title

The Championship welcomed its largest ever audience, with a packed Carrbridge Village Hall and other satellite venues around the village, and thousands more watching via livestream on Facebook and YouTube. In addition to the traditional World Porridge Making Champion title, a second award for 'Best speciality dish', which can include any recipe made with oatmeal, was presented to Australian food stylist, Caroline Velik. Caroline's Porridge Jaffles, a yogurt flatbread, were filled with Caroline's mother's recipe for rum bananas, with Bundaberg banana toffee rum liqueur, bananas, oatmeal and waffle seeds, tossed in Davidson plum sugar. Highlights of the day included clips from the recently released documentary film, The Golden Spurtle, guided tastings of local malt whiskies and gin and during the heats, and fun selfie photo opportunities with a giant 6-foot spurtle named Muckle Spurtle.

Porridge Chieftain, Alan Rankin, said: "Congratulations to Sven on taking home the highly coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion and the Golden Spurtle trophy. The standard this year was exceptional, and it's wonderful to see the event continuing to go from strength-to-strength. The event relies on spirited competitors, our sponsors and the legion of local residents who volunteer their time each year."

Clan MacDubhsith Search for a Commander



1 October 2025
Submitted by the Council of Presidents of the Societies representing the families of the Clan MacDubhsith.

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie, and other accepted cognates is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (Ceann-Cath). The Clan MacDubhsith Commander will provide leadership, carry forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms will be petitioned for authorization to convene a Family Convention to be held in May 2026. At this event nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible members of the worldwide Clan for selection as their nominee to be presented to the Lord Lyon for review and approval if accepted. In its search for a qualified and appropriate person to lead the Clan, the Council of Presidents, (representing the seven Clan societies, Family groups and all other eligible Clan members worldwide), has prepared reference information and the necessary Forms to be submitted by eligible candidates which includes a Notice of Intent to be considered as a Candidate for Commander.

These can be found on the Council's webpage: www.clannameandcommandersearch.com.

Eligible Clan members worldwide who wish to be considered are invited to submit their fully completed Notice of Intent (NoI) by email to: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com or send an email via the website above.

Alternatively, please write to: Clan Commander Selection 11, Ewart Drive Dumfries, DG2 7LT

The deadline for submission of your Notice of Intent is 30 November 2025.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Orkney rejects 'tourist tax'

Orkney Islands Council's (OIC) has announced a decision not to proceed with a visitor levy is and has instead called for the Scottish Government to engage constructively with the local authority and tourism sector in Orkney on proposals for an alternative point-of-entry levy.

The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act came into force in September last year, giving local authorities the power to levy a "tourist tax" on overnight visitors. Orkney has a population of approximately 22,500 people and welcomes around 450,000 visitors who contribute more than £114M a year to the local economy. The report approved by OIC's Policy and Resources Committee this found "strong opposition to an overnight visitor levy" from stakeholders in Orkney, and recommended not progressing with the proposal.

The decision follows a similar stance taken by both Shetland Islands Council and Western Isles Council/Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to not proceed with the levy charge for visitors. Edinburgh will become the first place in Scotland to charge visitors on top of the cost of their accommodation from next summer, with Glasgow and Aberdeen also confirmed to follow.

Fossil discovery reveals new species of fanged reptile that once roamed Scotland



A fossil discovered on the Isle of Skye has revealed a new species and family of Jurassic reptile linked to the origins of lizards and snakes. A study published in *Nature* by an international team of researchers, led by the American Museum of Natural History and including National Museums Scotland, describes a previously unknown Jurassic reptile that lived around 167 million years ago. The species has been given the Gaelic name Breugnathair elgolensis meaning 'false snake of Elgol', referencing the area of southern Skye where it was discovered.

Breugnathair had snake-like jaws and highly recurved teeth, similar to those of modern-day pythons. Unlike living snakes, it had the proportions and limbs of a lizard. The fossil is among the oldest and most complete Jurassic lizards known to science. Breugnathair was a squamate, the largest order of scaled reptiles, including lizards and snakes. The species has been placed in a new family Parviraptoridae, an enigmatic group of extinct, predatory squamates. Previously known from very incomplete remains, parviraptorids were thought by some to be the first snakes. Breugnathair might therefore provide evidence of the lizard-like ancestors of snakes, but it also has primitive anatomical traits suggesting that parviraptorids were stem-squamates, the predecessors of all lizards and snakes.

The fossil was discovered near Elgol by National Museums Scotland curator Dr Stig Walsh, Senior Curator of Vertebrate Palaeobiology at National Museums Scotland and co-author of the study. Other recent Jurassic discoveries from Skye include the Elgol dinosaur, the most complete dinosaur skeleton found to date in Scotland; adult and juvenile Krusatodon, that revealed that these mammals grew more slowly during the Jurassic than mammals do today; and the world's largest Jurassic pterosaur fossil, Dearc sgiathanach.

Dr Stig Walsh, said: "The Isle of Skye is one of the most important Middle Jurassic sites in the world. Breugnathair elgolensis is a remarkable addition to the fossil record, helping to rewrite our understanding of the evolution of snakes and lizards. We're delighted to add it to the other amazing finds in the National Collection that were discovered in Skye, truly Scotland's Jurassic Isle."

University spot could be linked to William Wallace



An archaeological dig has uncovered a section of road on the University of Stirling estate believed to have been used by Sir William Wallace and his army. Archaeologist Dr Murray Cook, who led the dig, said the road dates back to the 12th century and would have also been used by the likes of Robert the Bruce, Edward I, Oliver Cromwell and the Jacobites.

The site, on the side of Spittal Hill off Airthrey Road, is part of Airthrey Estate, owned by the University of Stirling. The four-day dig, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge on September 11, 1297, attracted a crew of more than 20 volunteers, including University of Stirling students and staff. They also found evidence of a late 17th century/early 18th century road, uncovering cobbles and glass they say date back to that time.

Dr Cook, of Rampart Scotland, said: "It looks like, rather than resurface the old 12th century road, they dug a brand new one on the same spot. We found the older surface sealed under a bank. It's exciting to think it was likely used by William Wallace and fellow Scots rebel Andrew de Moray."

Dr Joe Smith, Senior Lecturer in History Education, said: "Scotland is undertaking a major curriculum improvement cycle which encourages teachers to think differently about their practice. By introducing new history teachers to methodologies such as archaeology, we hope to broaden teachers' and young people's ideas about what history is and where we can learn about it. Dr Cook's dig was a great opportunity to do that."

Glasgow Subway going contactless



The Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is upgrading the Glasgow Subway to accept contactless payments, including debit cards, credit cards, and mobile wallets, by the end of 2025. While the ticketing gates are currently being updated, passengers should continue to use their Smartcards or paper tickets normally until the new system is fully tested. The networks upgrading its station gates and passengers will no longer need to purchase paper tickets at the machines or counters, though those methods will still be available for payment. The technology upgrades are part of the modernisation of the Glasgow Subway system, which is the world's third oldest underground railway after London and Budapest, which was opened on 14 December 1896.

Stirling named Scotland's best city for culture



A new study commissioned by rail company LNER has crowned Stirling as Scotland's cultural capital – sharing the honour with its English counterpart, Cambridge. The study scrutinised 71 cities and towns across Scotland and England with data covering five themes (including culture) gathered from reputable sources. Indicators for culture included the number of museums, theatres, historic

sites, UNESCO listings, art and music events and bookshops. Data was then adjusted for population size and weighted to generate a final score out of 100.

The findings revealed Stirling offers the most enriching cultural experiences for visitors north of the border: Stirling boasts the highest number of bookshops per capita in Scotland; an impressive volume of art (84) and music (58) events per capita; and the city's seven diverse and high-quality museums helped it clinch the accolade.

Based on these findings, LNER proclaimed Stirling as Scotland's leading cultural destination, stating: "With its fairytale skyline and deep historical roots, Stirling is a city where Scotland's story comes vividly to life." The company praised the city's size compared to its cultural influence noting: "It may be small in size, but it's mighty when it comes to cultural impact. With one of the highest numbers of museums, bookshops, historic sites and events per capita in Scotland, this historic city is a cultural powerhouse packed into a walkable, picturesque setting."

Greater Glasgow's medieval origins revealed in Gallowgate Dig



Archaeological remains of Glasgow's earliest suburbs have been discovered by GUARD Archaeology. Several lines of well-preserved wooden posts with woven fencing, as well as pottery at a site in the Gallowgate area. The discovery was made 4.5 metres below the current street level at the Spoutmouth area, which is being developed into social housing. This is a remarkable survival of organic archaeology in an area of the city that has witnessed substantial development over the many years since Glasgow was first established.

A small sliver of medieval Glasgow that has somehow survived centuries of building and rebuilding. The GUARD Archaeology team unearthed 63 upright posts arranged in three lines defining three broad linear areas. As these are so deep, the site is constant flooding from water but this is also why these wooden remains have survived for so long. Caught up in the wattle fencing, are numerous sherds of medieval pottery, animal bone and other organic material.

The Spoutmouth site lies on the south side of the former line of the Molendinar Burn which was once one of the most well-known water courses in Glasgow that drains into the River Clyde; it now flows underground having been culverted in the 1800s. This rare discovery of preserved wooden structures opens a window into Glasgow's past when it underwent its first wave of major expansion. It is remarkable that in the same year that Glasgow will celebrate its 850th anniversary of receiving burgh status, some archaeological evidence of those beginnings have been discovered.

The Caledonian Society of Sydney

The Scottish Banner speaks to Paul Gallagher, Chairperson, The Caledonian Society of Sydney

The Caledonian Society of Sydney is fairly new Scottish organisation. Can you tell us about the Society and its goals?

PG: Upon returning to Australia two years ago, I noticed a gap—a lack of a dedicated business network for Scots seeking to establish themselves in Sydney. Recognising this need, I joined forces with fellow members of the Scottish Government's Global Scot program. We saw, especially with the number of young Scots relocating to Australia, that such a network could be highly beneficial.

The Caledonian Society was thus formed, aiming to provide a welcoming community for individuals of Scottish heritage or anyone who feels a strong affinity with Scotland. Our mission is to support members in their business and professional endeavours by organising events that foster networking, encourage the exchange of ideas, and facilitate mentorship. We are particularly committed to helping young Scots get settled and thrive in Sydney.

Inclusivity is at the heart of our Society. We consciously maintain a balanced representation across age groups and gender—half our committee is female and half are under 35 years old. This reflects our dedication to creating an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. While we are still in the early stages of development, we aspire to introduce a charity component to our mission within the next 18 months, further strengthening our commitment to the community.

The Caledonian Society is this month hosting its inaugural black tie St Andrews Dinner & Ceilidh. Can you tell us more?

PG: Promoting Scottish culture and tradition in a way that resonates with contemporary audiences is central to our mission. To ensure that our celebration of St Andrews Day would be meaningful and inclusive, we consulted our younger members, seeking their input on how best to mark this significant occasion. The overwhelming preference was for a black-tie dinner paired with a ceilidh, blending formal elegance with lively Scottish tradition.

Accordingly, on November 14th, we will gather at the Fullerton Hotel in Sydney for an evening that captures the spirit of Scotland. Guests will be treated to a ceilidh band, the iconic haggis, and, undoubtedly, some fine whisky—creating an authentic Scottish atmosphere. The event will also feature a charity auction, generously supported by one of our sponsors, Pickles Auctions. Funds raised from this event will go to the Women's Housing Company, an organisation dedicated to providing safe accommodation and support to thousands of homeless women across New South Wales each year.

The Society also plans other events throughout the year, can you tell us about them and how people can get involved?

PG: Since launching just five months ago, the Caledonian Society of Sydney has grown to over 600 followers. It has

already brought together members for three vibrant midweek networking events. Each gathering has been filled with lively conversation and genuine connections, with attendees sharing how these opportunities have opened new doors for them professionally and personally.

More than just a place to swap business cards, these events have sparked valuable mentoring relationships—a key part of our vision for the Society. We're delighted to see members supporting each other's journeys, whether it's offering advice over coffee or helping navigate new challenges. This spirit of camaraderie and mutual uplift is at the heart of what we do.

We're excited to keep the momentum going, with plans to host these networking evenings every quarter. If you'd like to join us or stay up to date on future events, simply follow The Caledonian Society on LinkedIn, where you'll find all the latest news, updates, and ways to get involved. Everyone with a love for Scotland or a desire to connect is welcome—we look forward to meeting you.

The Society is an avenue for professional Scots to not only connect but also allows for mentorship. Why is it important for you to offer that to new Scots relocating in Australia?

PG: We are actively working towards developing a formalised mentoring program within the Society. Beyond simply facilitating professional networks, this initiative will provide structured



support for members, allowing mentees to clarify their goals, enhance their skills, and build the confidence needed to overcome challenges. By offering guidance and encouragement, mentors will help participants better navigate both professional and personal obstacles.

Importantly, a formal mentoring program will also foster greater diversity and inclusivity throughout the Society. By extending support to those who may feel less confident or underrepresented, we aim to ensure that every member feels empowered to participate fully and achieve their potential.

Can you tell us where in Scotland you are from and what brought you to Australia?

PG: I was born in Edinburgh but grew up in Dumfries and Galloway. I first worked in Australia from 1998 and was proud to work with amazing clients such as the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Having returned to the UK in 2001, I now find myself back in one of my favourite places, Sydney. This time I have my family with me having relocated from Edinburgh. Our three sons attend Scots College here in Sydney. It is quite something to witness when the school comes together and sings Flower of Scotland!

For more information visit: the caledonians ociety.com

Face-to-face with Scotland's Pictish past

n archaeology student from the University of Aberdeen came face-to-face with Scotland's **L**past when she unearthed an incredibly rare, carved depiction of what may be a human face. Jodie Allan was a volunteer on a dig at East Lomond in Fife, led by Professor Gordon Noble and Joe Fitzpatrick of the Falkland Stewardship Trust, when she spotted what she initially thought was a piece of slag while sieving soil excavated from an early medieval building identified at the major hillfort. But on closer inspection it turned out to be an incredibly rare schematic carving which experts say could be the face of a Pict.

Pictish kingdom

Professor Noble, from the University of Aberdeen, has been co-leading excavation work with the Trust at the site near the



Falkland Estate for the last four years. The hillfort and surrounding settlement are located in what is thought to have been the southernmost part of the Pictish kingdom, which ruled a large part of what became Scotland. This major hillfort and settlement has been the focus of a joint university and community project run by the Falkland Stewardship Trust and the University of Aberdeen from 2022 onwards, building on earlier Heritage Lottery funded excavations.

Digs at the site bring together community volunteers, students and University experts for excavation work. Previous work has unearthed Roman imports such as Oxfordshire Ware pottery and E ware from northern France – a continental style of pottery used to hold exotic foodstuffs or dyes – usually found at high status sites.

Jodie said: "I had no idea I was holding anything significant. But I took a closer look because of its size and because the colour – a sort of oxidised coppery green – caught my eye. I showed it to Professor Noble who took one look at the stone and his reaction told me it was something special – with what appears to be a carved face on it."

Incredibly rare

Professor Noble said the find adds to the growing body of evidence that East Lomond was an important Pictish settlement and added: "This is an early schematic carving with two eyes, a nose and what appears to be a hairline at the top. We need to get this fully analysed but it appears to be a carving of a face, and resembles some of the human faces you see in early medieval manuscripts. It is incredibly rare to have a representation of a human face in this time period. We'll have to look at all the parallels, but if it really is a human face it's nice to think it could be a rudimentary portrait of a local Picts who lived at East Lomond. The building we found appears to be from

the final phase of activity in the annexe settlement which would place it in the 5th-7th century phases. The discovery could offer new insights into how Picts understood themselves and represented their own identities through crafting and stone carving. The face suggests that Pictish people here were making more expedient carvings, perhaps something for family members living at the site rather than public display like the more famous Pictish symbol stones. East Lomond is turning out to be such an amazing site. In addition to the face we found a complete mattock head, an iron tool from the floor of a building right next to the building with the carving, and from other parts of the site fragments of weaponry and other rare objects are beginning

to illuminate the development of this settlement from the late Roman Iron Age through to around the 7^{th} century AD."

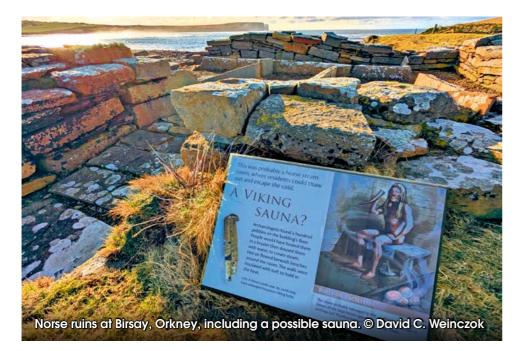
The archaeologists will now work to make sense of the face through radiocarbon dating of the floor layers and settlement deposits associated with the building and examination of other art historical parallels to understand more about the character and context of the small carved stone object.



A brief history of the Viking Age in Scotland

By: David C. Weinczok







ost conventional histories present the Norse invasions of Britain as a flash in the pan, an intense if fleeting period when the island's kingdoms were carved up by seaborne raiders and their great axes. Bloody and swift as some raids were, in Scotland the picture is much more complex – there simply wouldn't be a Scotland as we know it without centuries of Norse influence. So, where and when did Scotland's 'Viking Age' begin and end, and what traces of it remain?

Fury of the Northmen

Immortalised in countless books, television shows, and history books, the Viking raid on Lindisfarne in northeast England in 793AD is commonly referred to as the very first appearance of the Northmen in Britain. We now know, however, that Vikings were plundering and setting down early roots in Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides several decades before the 'fury of the Northmen' visited Lindisfarne.

The Northern Isles of Scotland are, after all, a mere two days' sailing from northern Denmark or southwest Norway, barely a weekend trip for a Viking warband. Many Norse sagas mention raids in northern Scotland and the Hebrides as casually as we might mention going to the shops to buy groceries. There is evidence for Viking sea battles on Scottish shores as far south as Bute from the mid-780sAD, and no doubt some intrepid Norsemen ventured west significantly earlier than that.

Norse

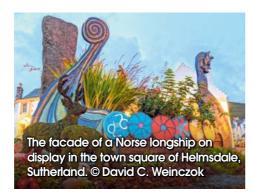
One important thing to note is terminology. 'Vikings' were the raiders and plunderers who first struck British shores and did not intend to permanently settle upon them. Once they established communities and buried their dead in the new-won lands, they are referred to as 'Norse'. The key difference is that 'Viking' is a verb, not a noun. There is no 'Viking' tribe or single culture. To go 'a-Viking' was to go raiding during the summer, so it really describes an occupation (raiding) rather than a cultural identity. A group of 9th century Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes would have had far more to fight over than to agree on, and they often did!

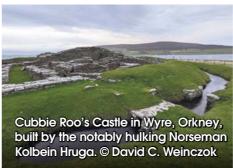
By the early 800s AD significant Norse settlements were founded in places like Birsay in Orkney and Stornoway in Lewis. At Westness in Rousay, Orkney, the earliest Norse settlers buried their dead alongside the Pictish dead in the local cemetery. Perhaps this was one way of stamping their ownership upon the land, or of symbolically declaring that they were the new locals. These earliest settlers were known as landnamsmen, the 'land-taking men'.

Perhaps unexpectedly, they seem to have respected many existing monuments like the ancient chambered cairns, and many Norse families would have included people of mixed Norse and Pictish or, in the Outer Hebrides, Gaelic heritage. Indeed, the Outer Hebrides became known in Gaelic as Innse Gall, the 'Isles of the Strangers', and a hybrid Gall-Gael culture emerged in subsequent centuries along Scotland's western seaboard. This culture survived well into the Middle Ages in the form of Somerled's Kingdom of Argyll and the Isles.

Lochlannach

It's from the 830sAD onwards that things got rather more dire for those living in Scotland. Iona, a shining seat of Celtic Christianity, was repeatedly sacked. In 839AD a Norse army destroyed an army of Picts and slew the kings of Fortriu (in the central Highlands) and Dál Riata (in Argyll). Ancient power centres like





Dunadd were abandoned due to constant raids. In 870AD a Norse host under Ivar the Boneless besieged and sacked Dumbarton Rock, capital of the Strathclyde Britons. They carried hundreds off as slaves and any survivors fled to their kinsmen in Wales. Native strongholds and kingdoms fell like Autumn leaves to the Norse, while Norse realms like the mighty Earldom of Orkney ascended and gobbled up the leftover pieces of the resultant power vacuum.

The 10th through 12th centuries saw these Norse realms continue to expand until checked by increasingly assertive kings of Scots, who made forays into the Isles and clawed back territories in the northern mainland. During this time Norse culture largely replaced Gaelic culture in the Western Isles, with many place names there today still containing Norse elements. Gaelic folklore reflects this, with many folk tales centred on Irish and Scottish heroes resisting the 'Lochlannach', men from across the eastern sea who assumed mythological proportions and powers.

Norse folklore also imprinted on the Scottish landscape. In Orkney and Shetland many large boulders are attributed to Norse giants throwing them at each other, and in the Outer Hebrides many of the ancient ruins of chambered cairns and brochs were attributed to supernaturally strong Norse builders. The Norse left hogback gravestones along the banks of the River Clyde, carved runes into standing stones at sites like the Ring of Brodgar, built longhouses from Shetland to Kintyre, stashed away or abandoned

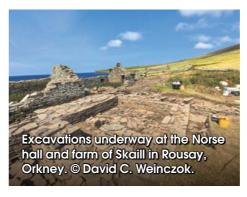
valuables like the Galloway Hoard and the famed Lewis chess pieces, and – slowly but steadily – began converting to Christianity.

Role in Scotland's story

The height of Norse activity in Scotland may have been behind them by the 13th century, but pivotal events were still to unfold. In 1230 a Norse fleet assailed Rothesay Castle in Bute, temporarily wresting it away from its Stewart lords. In 1263, led by no less than the King of Norway himself, Håkon IV, a Norwegian army swept through the Isles and landed at Largs on the Ayrshire coast. Checked by a Scottish host, the Norse were forced to abandon their plans to retake the western seaboard and Håkon died in Kirkwall that December. This was to be the final military incursion of the Norse in Scotland.

However, it was not for another two centuries that, in 1472, Shetland and Orkney were pawned to Scotland by Norway and simply never purchased or taken back. Those archipelagos were part of the Norse world for over 600 years, longer than they have been part of modern Scotland and the UK. There are even whispers today of a desire for them to re-join Norway, and even a brief venture to them will instil a strong sense of how culturally intertwined the islands are with their Norse past.

Many people think of Scotland's Viking and later Norse history as a brief, albeit bloody and dramatic, flash in the pan, and no doubt the victims of Viking raids and early Norse conquests are a testament to the brutality of the times. Zoom out, however, and we see a period of no less than four centuries when Norse armies, politics, material culture, folklore, and settlement patterns were central to the stories of huge swathes of Scotland. New discoveries emerge from soils and shorelines every year which shed further light on their role in Scotland's story - and with any luck, someone walking on a storm-swept beach this winter might just happen across another long-lost piece of the puzzle.







From Scotland and the World: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo unveils first performers





erformers from across the globe and in Australia and New Zealand have been announced to perform as part of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as it comes exclusively to Brisbane and Auckland in February 2026 in celebration of its 75th anniversary, including Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band (which is the only school in the country invited).

Announced at Brisbane Boys' College (BBC) in Toowong by Alan Lane, Creative Director of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, who flew in from Scotland for the moment, over 30 bands and cultural groups from more than 12 countries will perform in *The Heroes Who Made Us* from 12 -15 February as part of a recordbreaking run of shows at Suncorp Stadium (four consecutive stadium shows).

Renowned for stirring music

These include UK Military Bands from Royal Navy, The Army and Royal Air Force alongside The Combined Military Bands of the Australian Defence Force (Air Force, Army and Navy), Queensland Police Pipe Band, Western Australia Police Pipe Band, Australia's Federation Guard, His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard Band and Drill Team, Japan Air Self-Defence Force Central Band, His Majesty's Armed Forces The Royal Corps of Musicians Tonga, and The Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band, with more to be announced.

The news was celebrated by Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Major, grade 12 student, 18-year-old Nicholas Shelburn, who has been playing the bagpipes since Year 3 at BBC, and has been to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with BBC twice.



Renowned for stirring music, military precision, cultural displays, and dramatic performances, the Australian and New Zealand event will see a total of over 1,100 performers descend on Brisbane and Auckland, with international performers including Scottish actor Terence Rae as narrator and fan favourite Top Secret Drum Corps.

The announcement follows the close of the Tattoo's spectacular 75th anniversary season in Edinburgh, which attracted near sell-out crowds to Edinburgh Castle Esplanade throughout August 2025.

Over 220,000 spectators attended, travelling from across the world to experience one of Scotland's most iconic cultural events, with millions more watching the TV broadcast.

From royalty to sporting legends and stars of stage and screen, *The Heroes Who Made Us* attracted a host of notable attendees, including The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Scottish tennis champion Andy Murray, and *Outlander* actor Sam Heughan.

A truly world-class line-up

Alan Lane, Creative Director of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the cast we've assembled. This is a truly world-class line-up that brings together the best of music, pageantry and performance. The Tattoo has always been about celebrating culture, connection and spectacle, and to be able to share that spirit with Australian audiences is a real delight. We can't wait to light up Suncorp Stadium with the colour, energy and precision that makes the Tattoo so iconic.'

Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said: "Brisbane is proud to welcome the world-renowned Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to our major events calendar in 2026. This iconic celebration of artistry, tradition and excellence will be elevated by the involvement of local performers, including the Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band, who will share the stage with international talent at this truly world-class event. It's a remarkable opportunity to showcase Brisbane on the global stage, while delivering a significant boost for local businesses and further reinforcing our reputation as Australia's lifestyle capital."



Queensland Minister for Tourism,
Andrew Powell, said: "Brisbane is buzzing
with anticipation as we prepare to host
The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for
the very first time in 2026. This event
is a true celebration of both our local
Queensland talent and extraordinary
performers from around the globe.
We're serious about cementing
Queensland's reputation as the events
capital of Australia and this is no
exception, with the Tattoo set to inject \$39
million into the state's economy."

Making its return to Australia and New Zealand for the first time since 2019, this will be the Tattoo's first-ever performance in Brisbane - and one of its most ambitious international Stadium productions to date. Blending the timeless traditions of the British Armed Forces with modern performance and world-class production, the Tattoo continues to evolve, while remaining rooted in history. Cutting-edge lighting, immersive sound design and stunning visual imagery will elevate the performance experience, all set under the stars at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

One of the world's most spectacular and iconic live events is also set to dazzle New Zealand audiences at Auckland's Eden Park, February 19-21.

For further details visit: www.edintattoobrisbane.com.au or www.edintattooauckland.co.nz

Initial cast announcement:

- UK Massed Military Bands including The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland, The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Duchess of Edinburgh's String Orchestra, Royal Air Force Central Band and more
- The Combined Military Bands of the Australian Defence Force
- Australian Defence Force Pipes and Drums
- Auckland Police Pipes and Drums
- Queensland Police Pipe Band
- The Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band
- Australia's Federation Guard
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Performers - including Pipers, Drummers, Dancers, and Fiddlers
- New Zealand Army Band
- His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard Band and Drill Team
- Top Secret Drum Corps, Switzerland
- Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band
- His Majesty's Armed Forces, The Royal Corps of Musicians Tonga



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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. 1695
- 1 Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. 1695
- 1-12 The city of Glasgow hosts the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), a major United Nations climate summit and put the city on the world stage for 12 days. 2021
- 2 Jack Alexander MBE of The Alexander Brothers died. The Scottish folk singer began his career in the 1950s with his brother Jack and was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire in 1935. 2013
- 3 The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12th July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. 1698
- 3 Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. $1975\,$
- 4 Birth of King William III. 1650



- 5 Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Robert Burns materials, 1877
- 5 The Commercial Bar in Fraserburgh receives a direct hit from a German bomb, killing over 30. 1941
- 6 Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. The first Celtic Park was established on a vacant lot next to St Mary's Church. 1887
- 7 Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. 1974
- 8 Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. 1308
- 9 In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. 1847
- 9 The Royal Yacht Britannia left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The Britannia carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. 1953
- 9 Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. 2001
- 9 Internet cables laid in water pipes, bringing fibre optic broadband to the Orkney island of Papa Westray in what is reported to be the first example of such a system being installed in the UK. 2024
- 10 Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume". 1871
- 11- Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.

Armistice Day
November 11th

11 - Armistice Day,
marking the end of



11 - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time,

a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

- 11 Edinburgh City Council announces they will be the first city in Scotland to make pavement parking illegal, the law came into effect in January 2024. 2023
- 12 St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.
- 12- Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. 1869
- 13 King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. 1093
- 13 The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. 1850
- 14 Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. $1896\,$

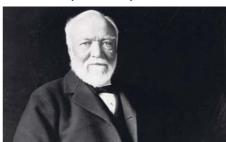


- 15 -Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled in Edinburgh. 1873
- 15 The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. 1996
- 16 James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. 1700
- 16 Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. 1891
- 17 David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. 1855



17 - Tam the Gun - the soldier who famously fired Edinburgh Castle's One o'Clock Gun for more than 25 years died. Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay, 60, lost a year-long battle against bowel cancer. 2005

- 18 Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. 1785
- 18 Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus.* 1998
- 19 King Charles I born born at Dunfermline Palace, Fife. 1600
- 20 James Bruce, 8th Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. 1863
- 20 Nicola Sturgeon is officially sworn in as First Minister of Scotland at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, in front of senior judges. Scotland's longest-serving and first ever female First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon resigned from office after more than eight years in the role in February 2023. 2014
- 21 King James VII married Mary of Modena. 1673
- 22 Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. 1515
- 22 2001-Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned.
- 23 1909 Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for many years for *the Scottish Banner*.
- 23 The Supreme Court rules that the Scottish Government cannot hold a second Scottish independence referendum without the UK government's consent. 2022
- 24 David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. 1331
- 24 The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. 1542
- 24 The high court in Glasgow imposes a minimum sentence of 27 years for Al Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi, the Libyan national convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, which resulted in 270 deaths. He was released on compassionate grounds by the Scottish Government on 20 August 2009 and died on 20 May 2012 in Libya. 2003
- 25 General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. 1681



- 25 Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. 1835
- 25 Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. 1897
- 25 Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make it a legal duty for period products to be available to anyone for free after the Period Products (Scotland) Bill is approved. 2020

26 - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. 1836



- 26- Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". 1917
- 27 The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. 1703
- 27 The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. 1996
- 28 Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. 1666
- 28 W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit. The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. 1930
- 29 Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. 1489
- 29 Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. 1599
- 29 Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. 1877
- **30** St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais') celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.
- 30 World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. 1872
- **30** *HMS Vanguard*, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**



- 30 Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. It is now housed at the new Perth Museum. 1996
- 30 Museumof Scotland in Edinburgh officially opened. 1999

Falling for Scotland: Autumn is good for the soul



magine this: the crunch of fallen leaves underfoot whilst on a woodland walk; a fresh breeze blowing in from the sea on an island excursion; pulling a warm coat around oneself for a walk around an historic building; or simply going out for an afternoon stroll after the rain has cleared to blow the cobwebs away. Few things can be as good for the soul as an autumn break in Scotland. With rural, coastal and urban locations all showing off the colours of the season and historic sites to explore, as well as thrilling tales to warm up those darker evenings, there is an autumn adventure waiting around every corner.

Walk this way

Scotland is quite the treat in autumn: rich golds, burnt brown, oranges and reds cover the land as the leaves change. It's also a

great time to spot wildlife as hedgerows are filling up with berries, and tree nuts and seeds are ripening. Check out some choices for a short, or longer, walk to really take it all in.

Wood of Cree, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere-The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is an ideal place to start an exploration of Scotland's autumn palette, whether visiting the area as part of Scotland's UNESCO Trail or just looking to escape for a stroll. The RSPB Wood of Cree is home to wildlife and offers the perfect autumnal woodland walk. Similarly, head for the Biosphere's Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve for the chance to be immersed in nature.

Deuchny Woods, Perthshire-Perthshire is a popular choice for those looking to

experience Scotland's autumn, with spots like Loch Faskally and The Hermitage. However, Deuchny Woods is a real hidden gem and favourite for dogs looking for plenty to sniff out under piles of damp leaves. At 5.5km, the circular route is manageable for a range of abilities and takes less than two hours to complete. An uphill start, it's worth it for the incredible views over Kinfauns and the River Tay. With gorgeous botanicals, check out the bright yellow gorse, the unusual jewel-red tones of the fox-and-cubs (it's more commonly orange) and millions of juicy brambles to forage safely (for foraging rules and guidelines in Scotland, see here).

Roslin Glen Country Park, Midlothian-Roslin Glen Country Park is a great location to explore for its diverse range of habitats and associated wildlife. With pathways to woodlands, riverside and weir, wildflower meadows and historical features, it is particularly eyecatching in autumn as trees explode with colour; beech, oak and sycamores provide an incredible canopy. There are path links to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway, Roslin Village, Castle and Chapel and Springfield Mill. The lower Glen and Car park area is partially accessible to wheelchair users via a river looped path.

Ness Bank, Inverness-Ness Bank in Inverness is a feast for the eyes in the later months of the year with swathes of golden leaves. To add to this, the Ness islands are a collection of natural islands that sit in the middle of the River Ness, connected to the riverbanks and throughout by beautiful Victorian footbridges. Just a short stroll away from Inverness city centre, it is a place of natural beauty to take a breath, get some exercise or just watch the world go by.

Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, Lanarkshire-Located just an hour from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the reserve is famous for its spectacular waterfalls and scenic woodland walks. It is also home to New Lanark UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over 100 bird species have been recorded including dipper, raven and kingfisher. It is particularly magical in autumn, for all to enjoy (although visitors should read the access guide here) with beautiful colours on arrival. Do as much (or as little) of the full circular walk; there are waterfalls to observe, areas where dogs can enjoy the water safely, a visitor centre and plenty of history to uncover.

Craigellachie, Moray Speyside-Situated at the meeting point of rivers Spey and Fiddich, the village of Craigellachie offers a veritable riot of colour come autumn time. The village sits at the foot of Ben Aigan which offers a five-mile hike and a rewarding view of the Moray coastline when reaching the summit. It is a moderately difficult walk and will take around 2-3 hours from the car park at the bottom of the hill. Speyside Way, one of Scotland's long-distance routes, skirts the town and is ideal for walkers and cyclists.

See also: www.visitscotland.com/things-to-do/landscapes-nature/forests-woodlands/autumn

Whisky's 'water of life' - Scottish distiller turns to science amid historic dry spell

hisky is 'the water of life' but in one of the driest starts to a year seen in Scotland, distillers are turning to researchers to improve access to the crucial water supplies for their unique products. Scientists from the University of Aberdeen are leading a project funded by Chivas Brothers, the Pernod Ricard business dedicated to Scotch whisky and maker of Ballantine's, The Glenlivet and Chivas Regal to develop innovative nature-based solutions that could help to mitigate water scarcity but also slow down water runoff following rapid downpours.

Nature-based solutions

The issue has been brought into sharp focus in recent weeks with the Scottish **Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)** issuing country-wide alerts for low water levels. The dry soil a long dry spell leaves in its wake can repel water rather than letting it soak in as damp soil would, meaning it is harder to hold water when and where it is most needed. In areas like Speyside - home to half Scotland's malt distillers - ensuring a continuous water supply, both now and in the future, is essential as temporary closures can cost the industry millions of pounds. Chivas Brothers is funding new research led by the University of Aberdeen and working with the James Hutton Institute, following a successful project in 2022 which focused on The Glenlivet distillery. There the team demonstrated the benefits of a series of small leaky dams installed in channels to slow water flow by holding the water in that location in temporary mini reservoirs. This allows it to

soak into the subsurface so that more water is available at times when it is needed.

The new research will broaden the geographic scope of the project across Speyside and explore a wider range of possible nature-based solutions for water management.

Benefits beyond the whisky industry Project lead Dr Josie Geris, a lecturer in hydrology at the University of Aberdeen, said the techniques they are investigating, including soil and vegetation management, could bring benefits beyond the whisky industry as around three percent of people living in Scotland rely on vulnerable private water supplies. Dr Geris said: "First, we will take a comprehensive look at data gathered from across Speyside and carry out detailed monitoring at The Glenlivet and two other distillery sites to develop understanding of how surface water and groundwater are connected, and how this varies across the different locations. This will help us to assess how resilient different water resources in Speyside are to drought and to understand what causes certain water resources to be more vulnerable whether it is driven by geology, land use or other issues. We will then use modelling to help future planning and our understanding of which naturebased solutions might work best where to mitigate water scarcity across the region."

Ronald Daalmans, Sustainability Director at Chivas Brothers, added: "This important work will help inform the whisky sector on how it can adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change for this critical resource. It forms part of a wider programme, called The River Within, which aims to support river

restoration and enhancement in North-East Scotland." In addition to supporting research projects, Chivas Brothers' The River Within, a long-term programme in partnership with three Scottish river trusts – the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Rivers Trust, and the Spey Catchment Initiative – aims to support the delivery of habitat restoration projects to ultimately preserve, protect and improve the health of Scotland's rivers and waterways.





IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen Skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

75g/2½oz. butter 1 tbsp. vegetable oil 2 leeks, roughly chopped 2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped 2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped 250ml/9fl oz. white wine 500g/17½oz smoked haddock 750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water

For the soup:

75g/2½oz. butter
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 leeks, finely chopped
2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed
300g/10½oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped
500ml/17½fl oz. double cream
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Method:

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened.

Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces.

For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan.

Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender.

Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

Clapshot (Neeps and Tatties)



750g/ 2/3 lb of potatoes 1 swede (rutabaga, yellow turnip or neeps), around 500g cut into 2cm cubes

1 onion, finely chopped 1 knob of butter 1 dash of milk salt black pepper

Method:

Place the potatoes, swede, onion and a teaspoon of salt into a large saucepan and cover with water. Place a lid on top and bring to the boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15–20 minutes until the vegetables are cooked. Mash with a knob of butter, splash of milk and a very good grinding of black pepper and serve.

Rosemary Roasted Scotch Lamb

Ingredients:

1.8kg /4 lbs. Leg of (Scotch) Lamb A couple of stems fresh rosemary 6 baking potatoes, peeled 1 onion, sliced 2 cloves garlic, sliced 1tbsp olive oil 435ml/¾pt lamb stock

Method:

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/ Gas 9. Season the lamb with freshly ground pepper and roast in a medium roasting tray in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Lower the heat to 180°C/350°F/ Gas 4. Remove the lamb from the tray and pour off the excess fat.

While the lamb is roasting, heat the oil in a pan, add the onions and cover and cook for 5 minutes till soft. Remove the cover from the pan, add the garlic and rosemary and cook for a further 5 minutes. Remove the onions from the pan.

Lay a layer of potatoes into the roasting tray and lightly season with black pepper. Lay 1/3 of the cooked onions onto the potatoes, repeat this process until you have three or four layers of potatoes and onions.

Bring the lamb stock to the boil and pour over the potatoes, press down with a spoon till the potatoes are all submerged.

Place the lamb on top and return to the preheated oven and continue to cook for 3 hours.

The lamb should be meltingly tender, and the potatoes and onions should have absorbed the stock and lamb juices.

Braised lamb with mash and malt whisky gravy

Ingredients:

2 shanks of Scotch lamb (ask your butcher to cut bone neatly across lower end)
1 carrot, peeled and chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 leek, chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
300 ml/10 fl. oz. lamb stock
60 ml/4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky
450g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed
Vegetable oil
Salt and freshly-ground
black pepper, to taste

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325 F/170 C/Gas Mark 3. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan or casserole dish. Season the lamb shanks and brown on all sides. Add the chopped vegetables, garlic and stock and bring to a simmer. Place in the oven and cook for about 2 hours, turning the shanks once or twice during the cooking. The meat should just be falling off the bone when cooked.

St Andrew's Day Menu

Celebrate this St Andrew's Day with a traditional dinner using some of the finest recipes from Scotland's natural



larder. Sample some great Scottish style food and drink on November 30th with your friends and family and enjoy a St Andrew's Night!

Strain the cooking juices into a saucepan, add the whisky and reduce by one-third (to thicken the sauce a little, mash in some of the cooking vegetables) and check the seasoning. Place the mashed potato in the centre of a large plate. Put the lamb shank on top with the shank pointing up and spoon the sauce around.

Tipsy Laird (Scottish Trifle)

Ingredients:

8 sponge fingers
3 tbsp. of raspberry jam
6 digestive or ratafia biscuits
1 dram of sweet sherry
1 dram of whisky or Drambuie
A handful of fresh raspberries
1 cup of double cream
1 tbsp. of caster sugar
Flaked almonds toasted to decorate
For the custard:
2 egg yolks
40g/1.5 oz. of caster sugar
4 drops of vanilla essence
1 cup of milk
2/3 cup of double cream

Method:

Start by making the custard. Beat together the egg yolks and sugar until pale. Mix the cream, milk, and vanilla in a pan and warm to just below boiling point.

Pour into the beaten egg mixture, blending well. Return to the pan over a low heat and stir continuously until thickened. Transfer to a bowl and cool.

Spread the sponge fingers with the raspberry jam and place in the bottom of a large glass bowl or small trifle dishes. Roughly crush the biscuits and scatter over the jammed sponge. Mix the sherry and whisky (or Drambuie) and pour over the biscuit and sponge. Leave it to soak in.

Whisk the double cream and caster sugar to thick peaks and fold in more whisky if preferred. Pour the cooled custard over the sponge and top with a layer of raspberries. Spoon over the thickened cream and decorate with a scattering of toasted flaked almonds.

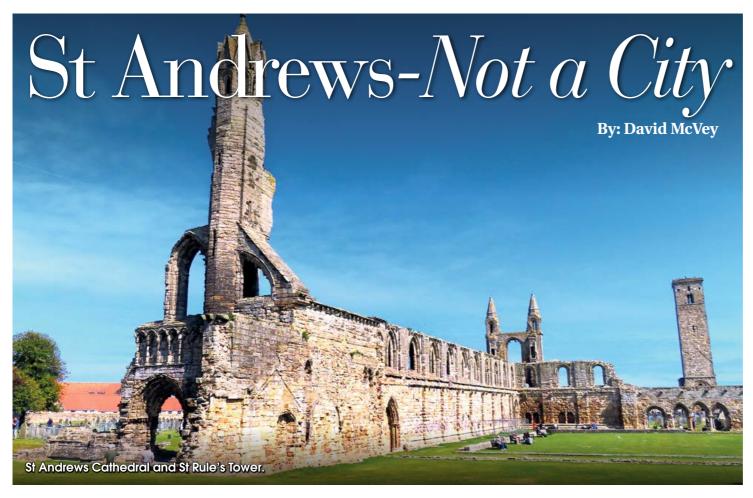
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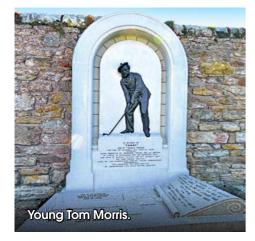
Ingredients: 570ml/1-pint double cream 85g/3oz. porridge oats 7 tbsp. whisky 3 tbsp. honey 450g/1lb. raspberries fresh mint,

to garnish Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them. Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries. Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.







he BBC quiz show *Pointless* often features questions where the answers are cities in the UK. It's surprising how many contestants offer 'St Andrews' as an answer. Or perhaps it isn't, after all, St Andrews has a university (Scotland's oldest, dating from 1413), a ruined cathedral and is by common consent the world capital of golf. It even has a prominent street called 'City Road'.

All the same, it's not a city. If it were, it would be Scotland's smallest city by a long way, its population just 17,000. However, the year-round influx of tourists, and the seasonal population of students mean that it has the retail, commercial and catering facilities of a rather bigger community. It can *feel* like a city.

Golf

Now, golf; St Andrews is home to several famous courses and to the Royal & Ancient (R&A), one of the sport's governing bodies. Confusingly, these days the R&A is a separate organisation from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, whose clubhouse stands near the modern building that is the R&A World Golf Museum.

A wonderful PG Wodehouse story called *The Coming of Gowf* tells of a distant kingdom whose king sees a gardener swinging a hoe to hit small round stones. 'It seems a hard thing to say of anyone, your majesty,' explains the King's vizier, 'but he is a Scotsman.' It turns out that the man had been captured at a place called 'Snandrews'.

Eventually he teaches the King, and his people, the joys of golf.

Beyond the golf courses are the West Sands, a fantastic beach, a glorious destination if you can find a hot summer's day. They are now inextricably linked with another sport because of their role in two of the most memorable sequences in British cinema history.

A group of athletes in 1920s running kit (played by actors including Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nicholas Farrell and Nigel Havers) pound along the West Sands as they train for the 1924 Paris Olympics, accompanied by Vangelis' soaring music. Lump-in-the-throat stuff. It's Chariots of Fire (1981), of course, and the sequences, which open and close the film, are supposed to take place in Broadstairs in Kent. It's very obviously St Andrews, though. Apparently there had been no long term plan to shoot there. Apparently the crew were in Scotland shooting scenes in Perthshire and Edinburgh anyway, and St Andrews was thriftily chosen for the Broadstairs sequences. With unforgettable results.

Cennrigmonaid

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) care for both St Andrews Castle and St Andrews Cathedral, both mostly in ruins. They're well worth seeing, though, and there's a modern visitor centre at the castle which tells much of the St Andrews story. The first, early medieval settlement here was called Cennrigmonaid which, besides being a real mouthful, is said to mean something like 'Church at the Head of the King's Mount'. Over the years it was shortened, thankfully, to Kilrymont. There was a monastic settlement at an early date, and it gained royal connections from the time of Kenneth Mac Alpin in the $9^{\mbox{th}}$ century. But it was during the $11^{\mbox{th}}$ century that stories began to spread of a 4th century figure called St Rule or Regulus (who may not have existed) taking the relics of St Andrew (who had existed) and lodging them at Kilrymont.

A shrine developed and became the focus of pilgrimage. Queen Margaret famously instituted a ferry - the Queen's

Ferry - from Lothian to Fife to help pilgrims reach the site. Already the seat of a bishop, St Andrews (as it was becoming known) was chosen as the site of an ambitious new cathedral, with David I giving the go-ahead sometime around 1140. The building took many decades, and rose beside the existing, smaller church dedicated to St Rule. In 1270, the west end of the building was destroyed in a storm, just as it approached completion.

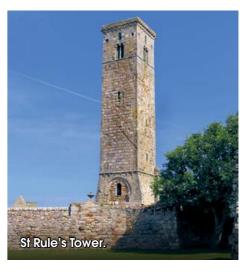
The resulting cathedral became the seat of the Archbishop of St Andrews and was effectively the headquarters of Scotland's medieval church. It was a massive building, perhaps larger than it needed to be as the flow of pilgrims to the shrine of St Andrew was never as large as had been hoped. It certainly had an interesting life, with the invading Edward I of England residing there, holding a parliament, and even stealing lead from the roof. It was only after the English had been removed from Scotland, in 1318, that the cathedral was finally consecrated in full. Robert the Bruce was in attendance.

Historical and cultural depth In the cathedral's heyday, St Andrews could legitimately call itself a city. The cathedral

legitimately call itself a city. The cathedral fell out of use after the Reformation; you'll sometimes read that the building was destroyed *at the time* by the reformers.

In fact, the building was mined over the centuries by local people for building materials. What's left still does give a sense of the enormous scale of the building in its pomp. I recommend taking one of the regular tours led by HES staff. Your tour finishes with an airy visit to the top of St Rule's Tower - the remaining bit of the church which preceded the cathedral.





You can't escape St Andrews' golfing history even here, though. The precinct has continued to be used for burials and a modern object of pilgrimage is the tomb of Young Tom Morris, a St Andrews lad who won the British Open at the age of 17 - he's still the youngest to have done so - and died at the tragically early age of 24. There's a well-worn path to his shrine (for, really, it *is* a shrine) which is easily identifiable by the bronze statue of Young Tom, complete with club and ball.

St Andrews Castle was highly bracing on the wet and windy occasion of one of my recent visits. It has a dramatic setting, just a stone's throw from the cathedral, protected from the sea by dramatic crags. It was the seat of the Bishops and later Archbishops of St Andrews, but it saw many other distinguished guests. James I celebrated Christmas here in 1425 and it's thought that James III may have been born in the castle.

Nowadays, especially if you visit in term time, the university rather sets the tone of the town. It's an intriguing thought that St Andrews had a university 400 years before London. The distinctive red gowns add a unique flavour to the place. In recent years, there has been a trend for the younger members of the royal family to study at St Andrews a dream come true for the university's student recruitment!

One thing St Andrews *doesn't* have is a railway station but buses run from Leuchars Station every few minutes so it's perfectly accessible even without a car. You could call it a seaside resort, but that description does no justice the town's historical and cultural depth. What it isn't, not anymore anyway, is a *city*.





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Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in the Scottish Banner and please support these great community organisations.

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Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join us in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

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> www.clancarrutherssociety.org clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm **Society of Australia Inc**

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc) Contact: Kim Polley OAM PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com www.clanchisholmsociety.org/ public/AUSmembership.php



Leanned Kindned of Currie

A leading Scottish non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts through a wide variety of programs.

contact@curriekindred.com www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing the name Davidson or one of the Septs shown on the member application form available from the Clan's Facebook Group link or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

Dennis Hill. PO Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 E:dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.



Clan Donnachaidh **Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia**

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary Email: lh100@tpg.com.au

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Membership open to all who share the Sept names

Robertson, Duncan, Reid (and others) and anyone who has

an interest in Clan Donnachaidh, its clanlands, history and heritage

Visit our website for more information on the Society,

our Clan Museum and Struan Kirk in Scotland,

our DNA project, and to locate a branch near you.

Website: www.donnachaidh.com

E-mail: admin@donnachaidh.com

Facebook: Official Clan Donnachaidh page (Robertsons

Reids, Duncans and others)

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

and Fraser septs

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Membership@Clan-Forbes.org

to join our clan society. All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/ 482236358590288

Clan Galbraith

Includes name variations such as Galbreath, Culbreath, Gilbraith etc.

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

> **Contact: Mal Edmiston** 3 Laguna Ave Kirwan, Qld, 4817 61 (0)7 4755 4370



Society

DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.

Edmonstone Clan Society

m.edmiston@bigpond.com

www.clangalbraith.org

CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

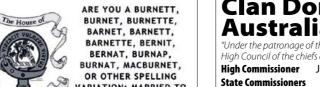
Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com

Rest of the World: membership@clangregor.com

Web: www.clangregor.com 6 The Esplanade

Broughty Ferry DUNĎEÉ, DD5 2EL Scotland UK





www.houseofburnett.org



High Council of the chiefs of Clan Donald"

John Angus Currie John A Currie NSW

A. Neil Macdonald Qld Michael Murphy Norman A Macdonald Pamela McDonald

clandonald.com.au clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com

We are a family of many names, come & join your family!



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair Email: marianne@mmelliott.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822 If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative: Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web: www.clangregor.com

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Clan Donald

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au Web: www.clandonaldqld.org ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

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Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contact our registrar: Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt. St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: membership.macailpein@gmail.com Website: https://macailpein.com/



Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.

Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

https://clanmaclarenau.org/ clanmaclarenau@gmail.com



Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson 55 Arcadia Ave GYMEA BAY NSW 2227

www.clanmacnicol.org





The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Armll; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com



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Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence Lawson Low[e] Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan Macpherson

Africa. Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chairman@clan-mphone +1 519 507 4465

Europe. Bodo Bernd Schmitz Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +0152 538 19 355

Scotland & Northern Ireland, Moray G Cattan SandNI.Chairman@clan-ma phone +44 7810 860 528

Australia. Pam Rhemrev Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 407 789 924 England & Wales. William Macphersor EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.or phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand. Tony McPherson

USA. Dave McPherson phone +1 408 781 5199

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October.

Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/



CLAN HOPE of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA resident & Commissioner: Ste

UNITED STATES of AMERICA High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope missionerusa@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope H

ope.org



Invites anyone interested in our Clan and its ancestral heritage to contact us. Various Clan names include McPhee, MacFee, Macfie, McAfee, Fee, Phee, McDuffy, Duffy, McCathie and many more.

For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our website:https://clanmacfie.com.au



Treasurer 2610 Kuvkendall Dr. Arlington, TX

76001-6726 Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



The Clan MacRae **Society of Australia** and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae, or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.

Australian Contact: Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: clanmacraeaustnz@gmail.com

> NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com



Rupert Irving of Bonshaw Chief of the Name and Arms and 20th Clan Chief

Cordially invites all Border Irvings & Irvines and variations of the Name to join in preserving our Clan and Family history!

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE! www.clanirving.com

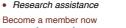


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Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org



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www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com/join www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com

回鄉深回

Clan MacRae Society of North America Granted Arms in 2008 We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and

www.macrae.org Need more info? Contact: Dean McCraw, President 912-596-8624 dean.mccraw1@gmail.com

Clan Maitland

Chief: lan Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!

Australia: Amanda Maitland

clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com

12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom

rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen

33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

family lineage!







Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron

Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum, 27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name

www.clanirwin.org

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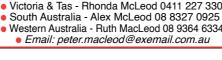
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www.clanlittlesociety.org

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Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.

www.clanmorrison.net



Secretary.clanmackenzie@gmail.com www.clanmackenzienz.org

Clan

Mackensie



CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us Find us on Facebook, Twiter, & Instagram @ClanMacNeilUSA



Clan Muirhead Society

Rev. Ret. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, FSA Scot, Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

Email- raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com

Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership www.clanmuirhead.com 18865 Cooper Street, Apple Valley, CA92308 membership@clanross.org

info@clanross.org www.clanross.org

Michael Ross, President

Clan Ross America

Scottish Associations and Societies



Through our platform of projects and events ASF helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge between the United States and Scotland. www.americanscottishfoundation.org



The American-Scottish Foundation

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Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms at Kathleen Syme Community Centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm during school terms at Kathleen Syme Community Centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Enquires: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



We would be pleased to welcome as a member, anyone interested in their Clan heritage with the names: Munro, Monro, Monroe and the septs, Foulis, MacCulloch Dingwall, MacLullich and

BECOME A MEMBER, VISIT www.clanmunroassociation.org.au

memberships@clanmunroassociation.org.au

Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174 Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263 E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754 Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited

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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

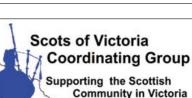
clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle. Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

Web: hyscots.org Fmail: hunterscots@gmail.com P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https://scotsofaus.org.au

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION



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Invites all those of the name of Young, or descended of a Young, to join our international collective organisation.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot membership@youngsofscotland.au

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

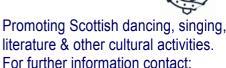
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> Conducts Annual Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Melissa Ventre - 0405 182 458 Email: secretary@robertburnsclubmelbourne.org.au

Facebook: Facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

St Andrew Society of W.A.



For further information contact: secretary@saintandrew.org.au https://saintandrew.org.au/

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website: https://www.vshcf.com.au.



for information contact Commander Des Ross (By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

Contact: Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us. Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com

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www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**



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www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria. Affiliated Clans & Societies

Clan Donald Victoria Clan Grant Clan Macdonald of Yarraville Clan Sinclair Geelong Scottish Dance

Brunswick Scottish Society

Glenbrae Celtic Dancers Maryborough Highland Society Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Warrnamhool & District Caledonian Society Warrnambool Highland Dance

Chief: Mr Grant McKinna President Norman Macdonald Secretary Jan Macdonald

Contact details: Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com Mobile 0438 584 930 Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266 www.victorianscottishunion.com

KINGS CASTLES AND

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again and hopes even if only a "DURTY" WEE RASCALS few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.





The Hurlet

Tis past-she rests-the scaffold hath been swept, The headman's guilty axe to rust consigned, But Crookston while those aged towers remain, And thy green umbridge woos the evening wind, Whilst aught is leftof those ruins gray, They will arouse remembrance of the stain, Queen Mary's doom has left on history's page, Remembrance laden with reproach and pain, To those who make like me this pilgrimage.

Excerpt from a poem by Motherwell

s children we often ventured along the Levern Waters and the River Cart towards the Hurlet and beyond to make our own small pilgrimage to some of Pollok's historical artifacts. The distinctive little round toll house at the Hurlet matched a similar one at the other end of the Barrhead Road at Pollokshaws indicating that the Barrhead Road had once been a key route for local transport of goods and materials between Pollokshaws Glasgow and Paisley.

Sitting at the junction of roads to these places, the Hurlet had once been a very important transport hub and the Barrhead Road remained not only a key route for modern day transport but for pedestrians like us children looking for adventure beyond Pollok.

The Redhills

As we approached the Hurlet we came to an area known to us as 'The Redhills'. Here there was a quarry-like depression cut out from red shale waste. It had a cycle track cut into the red shale forming a kind of amphitheatre. Sometimes in the long summer evenings, that magical time before sunset, we could watch competitive cycle races run between our local team, the Red Rockets, and other visiting teams from further afield. Close by and built into an embankment was a high vaulted tunnel of old dressed stone. This went into the embankment for several yards with the back of the tunnel filled in with bricks and mortar to prevent further entry.

But, of course, we were always daring each other to venture into that forbidden entry before the tunnel became completely blocked to us and to listen for the ghosts of the past.

Because the yellow sandstone of this old tunnel had aged and looked exactly like the sandstone we were familiar with at Crookston Castle it was a common belief, amongst us children, that the tunnel led all the way back to Crookston Castle, less than two miles away, and that this was the exit to a large escape tunnel used in those dangerous times in the past. In our befuddled knowledge of our local history, and no doubt, confusing the story of her escape from Loch Leven Castle, this was to us where Mary, Queen of Scots, had fled from Crookston Castle after the battle of Langside. And of course the inaccuracies in our local history, made by those better informed than us, didn't help to dispel those conjured up in our own vivid imaginations.

In reality we were standing on the old Hurlet alum works site which once lay between the Barrhead Road and the Nitshill Road. The tunnel was a remnant from the district's industrial past and not its medieval past, for as well as being rich in coal, the Hurlet seam contained copperas, an ore found locally with the coal in a band of red aluminous schistus. Our houses on Cornalee Road, a mere half mile away, were built upon the waste from the processing of these seams.

Manufacturing interest

John Lightbody started a copperas plant at the Hurlet in the 18th century. Green copperas, or sulphate of iron, was used to make ink, in tanning leather and in dying black the wool of hats. Charles MacIntosh, later of waterproof fame, first produced alum at the Hurlet through the firm of MacIntosh Knox & Co. Living at the Hurlet at this time he set about in 1797 to apply the principles of chemistry to very successfully prepare alum from the shales

taken from the exhausted coal wastes of the area. The works covered a 20-acre field on the west bank of the Levern on the site of the old Legions coal pit and those workings soon became the largest in Scotland. As well as the coal pits and the lime works, Messrs John Wilson & Sons had a large-scale chemical manufacturing interest at the Hurlet and Nitshill. Wilson set up a second copperas plant at the Hurlet and he also began the manufacture of alum. Alum was the principal mordant used in the dyeing process to fix colours to give them brilliance and to make them durable.

The manufacture of this substance became an early and important industry at the Hurlet and Nitshill and by 1836 Wilsons' was producing 1,200 tons of alum and 300 tons of copperas. At nearby Darnley there were once quarries, brick works, asbestos and lime works. These areas where we explored as children were historical industrial sites associated with a once thriving chemical industry, supplying dyes to the cotton mills of Paisley and beyond. The Hurlet in 1850 was then a village of more than 300 people. In 1950 the village had gone and by the 1970's landscaping of the old sites had all but completely obliterated any signs of these once important industries that had once thrived there.

Medieval and industrial history

I have often wondered why my history teachers at Crookston Castle Secondary School never used both the medieval

and industrial history all around us in our housing scheme to bring history alive and to simply allow us to make some sense of the remnants of a very interesting local history. I guess they would have to have diverted from the strictures of the set curriculum to do that. It was my science teacher, Mr McGeachan, sometimes talking about the history of Pollok and its environs that kept my fascination for local history alive and perhaps in a very roundabout way made me become a science teacher myself, rather than a history teacher, which in many ways, with hindsight, would have made more sense.

But even my favourite science teacher who taught me chemistry, never, ever referred to the important industrial chemistry that occurred at the Hurlet and Nitshill, a mere three miles from our school. These once sylvan scenes in the 18th century by the banks of the Levern waters and the River Cart had been destroyed by industrial activity in the 19th century only to be covered up once more in an attempt at rehabilitation in the 20th century.

Scenes of my childhood and dear to my heart, Ye green waving woods on the margin of Cart.

Campbell

Forth from my low-roofed home I wandered blythe Down to thy side, sweet Cart.

James Grahame

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Australia

NOVEMBER 2025

The Warringah Scottish Society Party Night 1, Collaroy, NSW

Party night is full of fun games, entertainment as well as plenty of dancing and Scottish music at the Masonic Hall, Pittwater Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/WarringahScottishSociety

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1, Prospect, SA

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Pipe and drum competitions, concert band displays, stalls and food at Maitland Regional Athletics Centre, 208 High St. Info: 0409 918 260 or www.maitlandpipeband.org.au.

Beltane Gathering 2025 7-9, Beerwah, QLD

May 1 is Beltane in the Northern Hemisphere, November 1 in the Southern Hemisphere, and on that day we honour nature's oldest love story. Beltane means bright fire, and in earth-based traditions, during Beltane, we will have a Feast and Ritual on Saturday, Handfasting, Broom Jumping, Maypole Dancing and lots of music. Info: Wayne 0415 800 888 or gathering@beltanefire.com.au.

Wauchope Highland Gathering 8, Wauchope, NSW

Band displays, massed bands, quintet competitions, Highland dancing, Highland games at Wauchope Showground, High St. Info: www.facebook.com/PMWRSLPipeBand

Silver Chanter Competition

9, Payneham, SA

Piping competition presented by the R U Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia Inc at Payneham RSL, 360 Payneham Rd. Info: www.rubrown.org.au

BBC Pipe Bands 85th Anniversary Concert 14, Brisbane, QLD

This highly professional show will showcase the amazing talents of our BBC Pipe Band members, who have performed on the world stage at World Championships and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. They will be joined by the BBC Ceilidh Band, and champion Highland Dancers. Info:https://auccbpfa.sales. ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/154462

St Andrew's Day Black-Tie Dinner & Ceilidh 14, Sydney, NSW

This landmark evening marks the start of a new chapter in bringing together Scotland-minded people in Sydney - from business leaders and creatives to young professionals and friends of Scotland. Join the Caledonian Society of Sydney at the Fullerton Hotel Sydney for a night of Scottish music, food and celebration. Info: https://events.humanitix.com/ st-andrews-day-dinner-the-caledonian-society

Melbourne Tartan Festival St. Andrew's Ceilidh Dance

21, Melbourne, VIC

Dance the night away with the Melbourne Tartan Festival and the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club and celebrate St Andrew's Day. Don't forget to wear some tartan at Collingwood Town Hall. Info:www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1453293

Scotword answers from page 6

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Widgeon	1 Washtubs
4 Milkmaid	2 Grandfather
10 Spanner	3 Owns
11 Valleys	5 Inventor
12 Tide	6 Kilmarnock
13 Gleneagles	7 Awe
16 Beadle	8 Desist
17 Dornoch	9 Drill
20 Chanter	14 Lochcluanie
21 Icicle	15 Glenrothes
24 Portobello	18 Beheaded
25 Mull	19 Ceilidhs
27 Ditched	22 Spider
29 Clanned	23 Flock
30 Ringside	26 Gael
31 Elders	28 Tun

RSL Memorial Pipes & Drums Townsville St Andrews Ceilidh 21, Townsville, QLD

Celebrate Scotland's patron Saint with RSL Memorial Pipes & Drums Townsville at the Townsville RSL Club. Info:rslpipebandtsv@gmail. com or www.facebook.com/RSLPipesDrumsTsv

Hunter Valley Highland Games

22, Lovedale, NSWExperience Scottish tradition in beautiful Wine Country, with pipe bands, Scottish athletics and dance at Saltire Estate Winery, 113 Wilderness Rd. Info: 02 4058 3088 or www.huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au

Scots on The Rocks' Dance Scottish: Easygoing Social 22, Sydney, NSW

An evening of danceable dances, with live music from Chris Duncan, Catherine Strutt and Jennifer Strutt at Leichhardt Town Hall, Cnr Marion and Norton Streets, Leichhardt. Info: Robert: 0435 154 433 or www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1446796

Scots on Show 22, Bendigo, VIC

Pipe band competition, Highland dancing and stalls at Truscott Reserve, Murdock St, California Gully. Info:contact@goldencitypipeband.org.au or www.facebook.com/goldencitypipeband

2025 St Andrew's Eve Dinner 28, Brisbane, QLD

Don't miss out on this fantastic celebration of Scottish heritage and community. It's an event that promises unforgettable memories and new connections, join the Society of St Andrew of Scotland Queensland at the Royal on the Park Hotel & Suites. Info: www.ssaqld.tidyhq.com

St Andrew's Day Ball 29, Perth. WA

Come along to Perth's Premier Scottish event the St Andrew's Day Ball. Ticket includes the Ceilidh & beer, wine, soft drinks, & 3 course meal. And not forgetting a chance to win an overnight stay door prize. We will have our honourary piper, the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band, Perth Academy of Highland Dance & the Heel N' Toe Ceilidh Band. At the Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough, The Esplanade, Scarborough. Info: https://saintandrew.org.au/upcoming-events

St Andrews Day Burns Supper 29. Wetherill Park, NSW

Get ready for an extraordinary celebration where Scottish tradition meets Thai flair in an electrifying night of music, feasting, and fun! Join the worldclass Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band and the iconic Scottish singing sensation, Mary Kiani, for an evening of soulful songs, soaring bagpipes and spirited revelry at Thai Rock, Stockland. Info: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1364918

St Andrews Night 29, Kambah, ACT

The Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club have a magnificent night planned, with music by Shanna Golden and the Clubs famous Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club Pipe Band, also Highland dancers on display at Canberra Burn Club, 28 Kett St. Info: www.burnsclub. com.au/event/st-andrews-night-2025

Happy St Andrew's Day 30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

St Andrew's Day Scottish Festival at Overnewton Castle

30, Keilor, VIC

Calling all clans to this four-acre Scottish Baronial Estate for a jam-packed day to celebrate St Andrews Day and all things Scotland. From 11am until 4pm, the castle grounds will come to life with games and activities for children, live Scottish music & dance, Highland Cows and the best culinary offerings from Melbourne's leading Scottish food suppliers. Info: https://overnewtoncastle29.rezdy.com/606823/ sunday-30th-november-2025-scottish-festival

DECEMBER 2025

Daylesford Highland Gathering 6, Daylesford, VIC

Gather your clan and come to Daylesford for a 'wee' bit of Scottish culture with a full day of piping, drumming & dancing at Victoria Park. Info: www.daylesfordhighland.com

Mackay & District Pipe Band St Andrews Day Ceilidh 13, Mackay, QLD

Get ready for a night of music, dancing, and a buffet so good you'll forget you came to hear the bagpipes at Northern Beaches Bowls Club. Info: www.mackaypipeband.com.au

Pipes of Christmas Concert Webcast

19-31, Virtual event

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit during this International Concert Highlights online special. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Gallus Christmas Ceilidh

21, Perth, WA

Gallus Ceilidh Band will keep you spinning and reeling like never before! We believe in enthusiasm before excellence, so come along, gie it a go and swing your pants!! Let our signature combination of traditional Scottish reels and jigs lead you into the dancing, while the surprising twist of rock, dance and techno beats and maybe the odd Christmas favourite at Perth Mess Hall. Info: https://megatix. com.au/events/gallus-christmas-ceilidh

Happy Hogmanay

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026!

Caledonian Society of WA Hogmanay Ceilidh 31, Inglewood, WA

See in the New Year with music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. All ages welcome. Info: John: 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

Hogmanay Hootenanny 2025

31, Trevallyn, TAS

Calling all lovers of Scottish culture and lively celebrations! Prepare to kick off 2026 in true Scottish style at Tasmania's most electrifying NYE event at Max Fry Memorial Hall, 60 Gorge Rd. Info: www.ceilidh.com.au/hogmanay

New Zealand

NOVEMBER 2025

Canterbury Caledonian Society Ceilidh 1, Christchurch

This is a fun evening of music and dancing suitable for all members of the family. Info:www.canterburycaledonian.org.nz

Hororata Highland Games

A Scottish Festival with a Kiwi twist! Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, stalls, Clans, heavy events and more at the Hororata Domain. A great family day out with lots of chances to take part and have a go in Scottish events. 45 minutes inland of Christchurch. Info: www.hororata.org.nz/highland-games

NZSG Scottish Interest Group -**Greater Wellington Meeting**

8, Tawa

November meeting. End of Year meeting with a guest speaker at Tawa Union Church Lounge, 6 Elena Place. Info: www.genealogy.org.nz

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 8, Wellington

A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family-oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info:

https://wellington-gaelic-club-communn-

Otago Scottish Heritage Council Centennial Book Launch

gaidhealach-wellington.weebly.com

20. Dunedin

Launch of the book chronicling the first 100 years of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council. To be held in the Dunningham Suite, Level 4, Dunedin Public Library. Info: www.otagoscottishheritagecouncil.org

Dunedin St Andrews Day Celebrations

23, Dunedin

Annual celebration of Scotland's national day, held by the Dunedin-Edinburgh Sister City Society. In 2025, the major theme will be the centenary of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council. The event will be held in the Octagon. Info: www.otagoscottishheritagecouncil.org

Come Ceilidh Dancing!

A ceilidh is the traditional Scottish community dance. Everyone is welcome: our friendly caller will explain everything and our live band will get you on your feet and dancing at St David's in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough. Info: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/ come-ceilidh-dancing/auckland/hillsborough

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

St Andrew's Day Lunch

30, Dunedin

Annual lunch in honour of St Andrew's Day, held by the Combined Clans. The lunch will be held at The Rope and Twine restaurant, in South Dunedin. Info: lynanicholson@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2025

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 13, Wellington

A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from $8.00 \mathrm{pm}$ – $12.00 \mathrm{am}$. We are a very family-oriented organisation, and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info: https://wellington-gaelic-clubcommunn-gaidhealach-wellington.weebly.com

Jenny Mair Highland Square Day 2025

13, Palmerston NorthThe Jenny Mair Highland Square Day is set again to showcase a raft of talent from across the country, with pipe bands, solo bagpipers and solo drummers converging on The Square Info: www.facebook.com/ManawatuScottishSociety

Pipes of Christmas Concert Webcast

19-31, Virtual event

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit during this International Concert Highlights online special. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

RSCDS NZ Branch South Island Summer School Ilam **28-January 5, Christchurch**A week of fun-filled Scottish Country Dancing,

music, and social events. Immerse yourself in the rich traditions of Scottish Country Dance and enjoy a vibrant community of dancers from all around New Zealand, Australia, the UK, the USA and many other countries. Info: https:// sites.google.com/summerschool2025-26. co.nz/rscds-nzb-summer-school

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026!

Waipu Highland Games 2025 31, Waipu

End the year celebrating Scotland with pipe band displays, Scottish dance, athletics Clans and more at Caledonian Park. Info: www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz

Scotland

NOVEMBER 2025

Aye Write Book Festival 6-16, Glasgow

Glasgow's long-established and much-loved book festival will celebrate its milestone 20th anniversary across 11 days, ahead of Book Week Scotland taking

place later in the month. Info: www.ayewrite.com The Autumn Gathering 2025

7-8, GlasgowScottish Country Dancers from all over the world head to the annual Autumn Gathering to take part in classes and discussion forums, together with the Friday evening dance and Saturday ball. Info: www.rscds.org/events/autumn-gathering-2025

Oban Winter Festival 2025

14-December 21, Oban

Scotland's ultimate Highland celebration welcoming visitors with festive lights, music, and holiday cheer. Info: www.obanwinterfestival.com

2025 Scots Fiddle Festival 14-16, Edinburgh

Scotland's biggest fiddle event with the aim of promoting and sustaining traditional Scots fiddle music at The Pleasance. Info: www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

Castle of Light

21-January 4, Edinburgh

Get ready to experience one of Scotland's largest projections shows with an all-new show for 2025, as fire and ice take centre stage. Let these enchanting elements guide you through Edinburgh Castle as they ignite dazzling projections and immersive light displays. Info: www.castleoflight.scot

Deck the Halls Show 28-30, Glasgow

A three-day extravaganza with the National Trust for Scotland of taste testing, great conversation, Christmas shopping, and a bit of Yuletide cheer at SEC Glasgow. Info: www.deckthehallsshow.com

Ceilidh at The Kelpies 29, Falkirk

An unforgettable evening of music, laughter and high-energy dancing as The Helix, in partnership with Scottish Canals, hosts its very first Ceilidh at The Kelpies. Set against the stunning backdrop of the iconic Kelpies, this lively event is perfect for families, friends, and ceilidh newcomers, enjoy traditional Scottish dances with a fresh, modern twist. Info: https://bit.ly/CeilidhAtTheKelpies

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

Highland Spectacular returns to Kryal Castle for the third year



missioner and Chiefs Lieutenant for Clan Gregor Australia and the Honorary Consul for the United Kingdom in Tasmania, Fiona McGregor, Phil Leitch from Kryal Castle, Seargeant Ben Casey Pipe/Drum Major with 5th/6th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, Bruce Edmiston, Melissa Ventre, Malcolm Murray the 12th Earl of Dunmore, Simmon Abney-Hastings the 15th Earl of Loudoun, Jann McKinnon, Paul McKinnon Assistant Commissioner NSW Police (rtd), event organiser and Australian Commissioner for Clan MacKinnon Society



lans gathered once again at Kryal Castle in Ballarat, Victoria to the rousing sound of a lone piper calling all kin within the mighty Castle walls, as the Highland Spectacular returned for its third year in August.

The weekend was a celebration of Scottish heritage and culture with the Chief of the Day Simon Abney-Hastings, the 15th Earl of Loudoun, returning as the Chief of the Day and special guest Malcolm Murray the 12th Earl of Dunmore.

The crowd favourite joust between the knights of England and Scotland returned to the main arena with the Scots, surprisingly taking the win. Proving once and for all that Scots are indeed the superior warriors of the burly lads and lasses from Highland Muscle. For those who have never been to Edinburgh for the Tattoo, this was as close as you can get outside of Scotland. The massed pipes and drums celebrating the music of Scotland in the main arena with the fabulous Highland dancers with their wee'uns stole the show yet again.

Displays of Scottish culture in a Castle setting

On Saturday evening a traditional Highland Feast was held at the Castle with haggis and other fine Scottish culinary delights. Accompanying the delicious food were selected whiskys from Kinglake Distillery.



After dinner the crowd jumped up for the stirring Hebridean tunes of Auld Alliance, who called traditional dances. Highland Spectacular creative director, Andrew McKinnon, was excited to see the event grow in 2025 and said: "We saw thousands of people attend last year from the huge Scots diaspora around Ballarat and the Central Highlands region of Victoria.

This year was the biggest turnout to date. I hope that we can attract more proud Scots from wider afield. Kryal Castle is only an hour from Melbourne. To see all the amazing attractions and displays of Scottish culture in a Castle setting makes this the closest thing to being in Scotland. Let's not forget Ballarat has its own tartan!" The Highland Spectacular was proudly presented by Kryal Castle.



Deacon Blue announce 2026 Australian tour.



cottish pop-rock icons Deacon Blue are thrilled to announce their return Uto Australia in January and February 2026, marking their first shows down under since 2023. The tour will celebrate the band's $40^{ ext{th}}$ anniversary and the release of their latest studio album, The Great Western Road. Known for their emotionally charged performances and enduring hits ${\it like \ Dignity, Real \ Gone \ Kid, I'll \ Never \ Fall}$ In Love Again and Fergus Sings the Blues, Deacon Blue will deliver a dynamic live experience that spans their full career from the soulful grit of their acclaimed groundbreaking debut album Raintown to the energy of The Great Western Road.

Their new album reflects the band's journey with honesty, warmth, and a renewed sense of adventure. Australian fans can expect a specially curated setlist, including all the hits you know and love, blending arena-sized classic anthems, tracks off their latest album, mixed with intimate surprises. With a reputation for crafting unforgettable live moments, Deacon Blue's 2026 tour promises to be a celebration of fan connection, nostalgia, and musical brilliance.

Deacon Blue tour Perth, Adelaide, Thirroul, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane between January 29-February 10. For full information and tickets: www.daltours.cc/deacon-blue

Being Scottish is Bags of

Ditch plastic-go Scottish!



Single Scottie Canvas Bag

The sturdy canvas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles H30cm W40cm D15cm



The Highland Coo Jute Bag

This shopper includes an iconic Highland coo design-including a wee black coo! Green bag with black ribbed handles.

H30cm W30cm D20cm



Multi-Sheep Jute Bag

The sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of Scottish sheep. With green webbed handle and interior zip key purse H30cm W30cm D20cm



Thistle Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Thistle's and purple edging and interior zip key purse. H30cm W30cm D20cm



The Multi Scottie **Dog Canvas Bag**

The sturdy canvas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles. H30cm W40cm D15cm



Tartan Scottie Jute Bag

This braw wee shopper includes a tartan Scottie dog design. With tartan gusset and red handles and includes an internal zip key purse. H30cm W30cm D20cm



Red Tartan Jute Bag

Tartan in jute, featuring a red tartan design-no words needed to say Scotland with this bag! With matching red ribbed handles and interior zip key purse. H30cm W30cm D20cm



Scottish Dialect Canvas Bag

Includes a humorous word descriptions, in case you did nae know! Sturdy cream canvas with black text and handles and zip key purse. H40cm W35cm D20cm



Single Scottie Jute Bag

Jute is a strong plant fibre and this lovely bag features a wee Scottie dog, with red webbed handles and trim and black gusset. H30cm W30cm D20cm

From the Scottish Banner

the canvas and jute bag collection direct from Dundee, Scotland.

These great and fun bags show off your Scottish pride wherever you go and have many uses. Make shopping or going to the beach fun with these multi use carry bag's. Great for yourself or as a unique gift!

\$25.00 plus \$11.50 postage or \$19.75 postage for multi-bag orders Australia wide (NZ orders please add \$10 airmail postage fee).

To order yours simply contact us on **02 9559 6348** or email: info@scottishbanner.com online at: www.scottishbanner.com/shop

More bag styles available online!















